



10005 East Osborn Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85256

October 31, 2022

Re: Transportation Modernization Grants – Local Tribal Government Application

Dear Grant Reviewer,

This letter is in support of the Transportation Modernization Grant to be submitted to purchase an electric school bus for Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community Schools.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community Schools is a division of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC). The SRPMIC is a sovereign nation located just east of Phoenix. We serve about 500 students in our three community schools. Transportation is provided to about half of our students, students who live more than a mile from our schools. Students in the SRPMIC come to our schools as their school of choice. The Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) serves children from birth to Pre-Kindergarten, Salt River Elementary School (SRES), a Tribally Controlled School serving children in grades Kindergarten to grade 6 and the Salt River Accelerated Learning Academy (ALA), a charter, alternative school, serves students starting at 16 years of age through graduation. The schools are overseen by an Education Board, which is appointed by Tribal Council.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community Schools would benefit from the transportation modernization funding to support a zero emission electric school bus. The purchase of this electric bus will support the Community and the School's commitment to clean air. Our rural Tribal Community is bordered by the cities of Phoenix, Tempe, Mesa, Scottsdale and Fountain Hills. If the grant is awarded, our first electric school bus in the Community will be showcased on the school website as well as on our social media. The bus will become a part of the environmental education we provide to our students and families, in partnership with the SRPMIC's Community Development Department. At the same time, it will be used to transport students daily with no emissions, supporting the respiratory health of our children. The electric bus will be showcased at safety, environmental education, and STEM events.

Consider funding this grant to the SRPMIC. The health benefits will assist both young and old in the SRPMIC and the surrounding area. The beginning infrastructure to support electric vehicles will be supported by the Community when grant funding ends.

Please contact Dr. Melody Herne, Acting Superintendent/Director of Education at [melody.herne@saltriverschools.org](mailto:melody.herne@saltriverschools.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

*Henry Osif*

Mr. Henry Osif  
Chairperson  
Salt River Schools  
Education Board