Dear Transportation,

My name is Ilan Schindler. I am a senior at Montgomery High School and have been in the school’s band program for 4 years and it has been a major part of my high school experience. Now, as a senior, I am taking an engineering based independent study class in which I need to complete at least one project that gives back to the school in some way, so I am giving back to the band program.

During marching band, we use a decommissioned school bus we call the Pickle to transport the larger instruments to and from performances. To load the Pickle, we have many parents volunteer and they all help lift each instrument onto the bus one by one and strap them in using bungee cords. It is a long process that is taxing on the parents and requires a lot of manpower to complete effectively. The project I am working on is to design and build carts that can hold multiple instruments that can then be rolled up a ramp into the pickle and locked in securely. Rolling the carts up a ramp will be much less taxing on the parent’s bodies, because of the carts’ capacities, the process will be much faster, and because it is a quick and simple process, fewer volunteers will be needed.

The purpose of this letter is to request permission to modify the interior and exterior of the Pickle, which is district property. For my project, I will need to install steel tracks on the inside walls of the Pickle to lock the carts into place. The tracks are similar to those already installed in the white box truck the district owns; the tracks have slots in them and are paired with specialized straps that lock securely into the slots. The tracks will simply be installed by screwing or riveting the tracks directly onto the existing structure of the bus. I will also need to install “Mounting Brackets” on the exterior of the back of the bus, below the emergency exit. These brackets are accessories available from the company I am getting the ramp from that can be used to better support the ramp. They will be screwed or riveted in.

No funds will be requested from the district to complete this project. I am in the process of raising the funds and securing donations. I am only asking for permission to modify the Pickle.

Thank You,

Ilan Schindler