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**From:** Jef Page [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 6, 2017 3:47 PM  
**To:** VWSettle  
**Subject:** Ideas for environmental mitigation

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for allowing the public the opportunity to participate in the process of government. I am writing in regard to the VW settlement and would like to submit my ideas for utilizing the funds that may become available to the state of Texas.

I have lived in and around Austin, TX my whole life and have noticed many changes, some beneficial, others detrimental. There are some basic trends that I have noticed in regard to vehicles, traffic, air quality and the environment most notably:

The traffic, in response to increased population, has become worse and worse, and the trend seems to be that we can't build roads fast enough. There has been no relief in the past decade and we, in this town, live in an ever-present construction zone. I think it can be established that 'more roads' is not the answer -- it has been tried and has failed. And, although electric cars will benefit our air quality, they will not reduce our traffic congestion. What can reduce traffic congestion and benefit air quality? -- mass transit. Please consider allocating some of these funds to a mass transit system in the state of Texas, preferably connecting the major cities.

The air quality in this town has been getting worse and worse, and on that note, in addition to mass transit, electrification of our transit system is a major priority and anything that the state can do to incentivize the transition would be helpful. It seems more and more likely that the federal government will be removing rebates for electric cars. Could the state replace them? How about removing restrictions that would allow companies like Tesla to sell directly to customers?

How about attacking the air quality issue in a more tangential way? Our city is obsessed with mowing lawns and according to recent statistics lawn mowers emit 4 times more pollution per minute of operation than cars. What if the state incentivized the purchase and use of electric landscaping equipment -- lawn mowers, weed whackers, chainsaws, just to name a few? Maybe offer some sort of trade-in program, especially for contractors, to expedite the switch.

And lastly, as we look into the future it seems more and more things are being delivered, and moved around, by large diesel trucks. I do not have a specific idea here per se, but I can't help thinking there must be a different way -- a way to get large trucks off the road, reducing traffic congestion, and fossil fuel emissions. Right now, large trucks will be the last ones converted to electric or fuel cell. Isn't there another way that this freight could be moved -- again, how about by train?

Thank you for considering my comments & ideas, feel free to contact me with any questions or follow-up.

Sincerely,  
Jef Page  
Concerned citizen