Pickens Plan Army,

Last week, I shared with you my thoughts on how we can get the most for Texans out of the Volkswagen settlement funds.

Our state has one shot to get this right and now we have an opportunity to make our voices heard with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Join me in emailing TCEQ today and let them know you support a market-driven plan to deploy cleaner and cheaper vehicles in Texas. You can send your email of support to VWsettle@tceq.texas.gov. Following are 3 key points to share:

1) Focus spending on vehicle grants, because the transportation sector is the largest contributor of nitrogen oxide emissions.

2) Vehicle grants should be awarded to the alternative fuel that reduces the most NOx per grant dollar, and natural gas vehicles (NGVs) are the best bet. They're cheaper, allowing Texas to get more vehicles upgraded, and they are as clean, if not cleaner, than electric.

3) Under current terms of the settlement, electric vehicles are eligible to receive grants for 75 percent of the total vehicle cost, while NGVs and all other alternative fueled vehicles are only allowed to receive grants for 25 percent of the cost. TCEQ should level the playing field and make it fair for all fuels.

It's up to the commission to do what's right for our state. Please join me in emailing TCEQ at VWsettle@tceq.texas.gov today.

- Boone