

Submitted via email to VWsettle@tceq.texas.gov

April 5, 2018

Commissioner Jon Niermann
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Air Quality Division
Implementation Grants Section, MC-204
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Re: VW Settlement

Dear Commissioner Niermann,

The Environmental Mitigation Trust (EMT) presents Texas with the opportunity to reduce smog-forming nitrogen oxide ("NOx") emissions and to accelerate the clean-up of older, dirtier diesel buses, especially in communities that have been disproportionately burdened by these vehicles. As the Transportation Reporting & Analytics Administrator for Houston Independent School District, I believe that replacing old, dirty school buses with new clean buses offers a cost-effective strategy to reduce NOx emissions and improve public health and is the best use of Texas' share of the EMT funds.

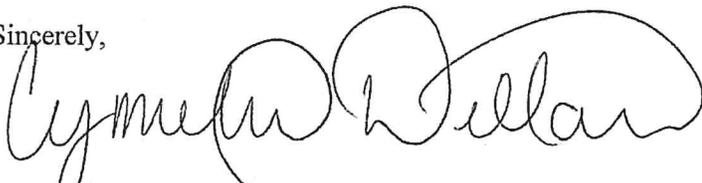
As a district responsible for the daily well-being of 214,175 students, we find it a priority to minimize their exposure to avoidable toxins within and around the learning environment.

The emissions technology in today's new school buses is very close to eliminating our student's exposure to emissions such as NOx and others that are associated with pre-2009 diesel buses, including increased asthma emergencies, bronchitis, and school absenteeism, especially among asthmatic children. Using VW funds for a Clean School Bus Program provides a real opportunity to effectively reduce harmful emissions that are associated with cancer and thousands of premature deaths nationwide every year.

Updating our fleet with new cleaner school buses is an easy-to-integrate solution for budget-constrained school districts, and drastically improves the quality of the air which our students breathe on a daily basis.

We hope to support Texas' continued transition to a better air quality future with the purchase and deployment of clean school buses and offer our support as the planning process moves forward. Should you have any follow-up questions, please reach out to me at the contact information below.

Sincerely,



Cymelia L. Dillard, MBA
Transportation Reporting & Analytics Administrator
Houston Independent School District

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