



---

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
ED THOMPSON

---

DISTRICT 29  
BRAZORIA COUNTY (PART)

August 9, 2018

Chairman Bryan Shaw  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Chairman Shaw,

I am writing to encourage the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality to include diesel vehicle replacement in its plan for the Volkswagen Settlement money slated for disbursement later this year. While I fully support replacing fossil fuel vehicles with electric options where available, omitting diesel replacements altogether would leave out a crucial segment of the transportation industry where electric vehicles are not yet available for purchase and commercial use.

Long haul large electric buses are not currently commercially available for many intra-city and intrastate carriers and will not be until after the money from the settlement is required to be spent. Additionally, public infrastructure requirements for such electric vehicles are not currently in place.

It is my understanding that plans being submitted by some carriers to cut emissions through upgrading their fleet include exactly the goal of the VW settlement. These efforts will help reduce emissions and make sure we are taking care of our environment and offering better transportation alternatives while long haul electric buses are developed and brought to the marketplace.

Older buses will get an upgrade from current vehicle models that have been identified for to a 2018 or newer ULSD (ultra-low sulfur diesel), which will result in the following health benefits for Texas:

- A nearly 90 percent reduction of NO<sub>x</sub>, or more than 5,000 pounds of NO<sub>x</sub>, per bus over the life of a single bus;
- A reduction of more than 8,000 gallons of fuel per bus over the course of 7 years; and
- A diesel emission reduction of 926,235 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> or 463 tons over the life of the engine.

Thank you for your consideration, and if you have any questions or would like to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Ed Thompson  
District 29

CC: Commissioner Toby Baker  
✓ Commissioner Jon Niermann  
Mr. Russell Crane