



COMMITTEES  
FINANCE *Vice Chair*  
TRANSPORTATION

THE SENATE OF TEXAS  
JUAN "CHUY" HINOJOSA  
DISTRICT 20

COMMITTEES  
NATURAL RESOURCES &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AGRICULTURE, WATER &  
RURAL AFFAIRS

August 30, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Shaw,

I encourage the Texas Commission on 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 some carriers are submitting plans to cut emissions by upgrading their fleet in alignment with the goals of the VW settlement. These efforts will help reduce emissions and ensure we are taking care of our environment and offering better transportation alternatives while long haul electric buses are developed and brought to the marketplace.

If included in the plan, older buses will get an upgrade from current vehicle models to a 2018 or newer ULSD (ultra-low sulfur diesel). This will help reduce NOx, fuel consumption, and diesel emissions, resulting in environmental and health benefits for Texas.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. J. Hinojosa".

Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa  
State Senator, District 20

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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Commissioners' Offices