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**From:** Vijay Govindan  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 29, 2018 11:15 AM  
**To:** VWSettle  
**Subject:** VW Settlement

To the honorable members of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality,

I write to you today as a concerned citizen and father. I have two young girls in elementary school. I recently became aware the comment period for the VW Settlement is due shortly.

I highly suggest the Commission use the funds for replacing diesel school buses with electric school buses. Research has shown nitrogen oxide and fine particle matter are absorbed by the lungs into the body. Both are emissions from diesel engines. The result is higher risk of heart, lung, and neurological disease. Young children are especially vulnerable and the impact is life long.

Although electric school buses have a higher upfront cost, there are many advantages.

Electric school buses have zero emissions => cleaner air, lower health costs.

Electric school buses have less moving parts and lower maintenance => lower cost. Electricity is cheaper than diesel fuel => lower costs.

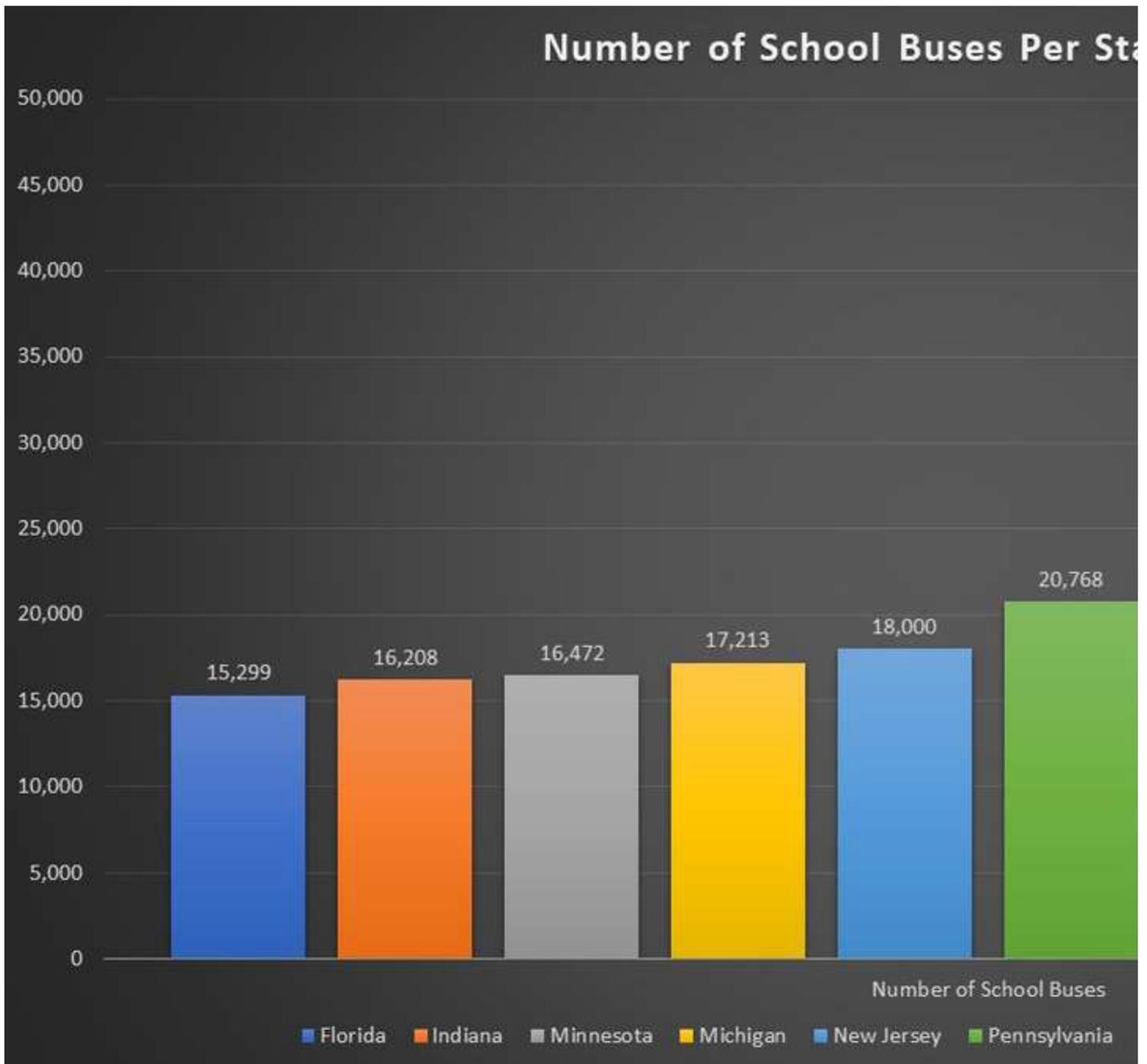
Electric school buses are quieter => less noise pollution.

Electric engines are more efficient than their diesel equivalent. => less fuel

The payback period for electric school buses is low due to the large cost savings. That allows ISD's around the state to have more money for education.

Our children and all citizens deserve cleaner air and healthier lives.

Texas is #2 in the country behind NY in total school buses.



Courtesy of Electric School Bus Campaign, twitter @ESBC\_org

Here are some links for the commission to consider the benefits of electric school and transit buses.

“Children are among the most vulnerable to health impacts from air pollution caused by diesel emissions, in part because of their higher respiration rates but also due to the long bus rides that many children take daily.”

“South Carolina wants to [replace](#) its 15-year-old school buses; [Oregon](#) is looking to replace 450 school buses and is considering adopting electric school buses; Colorado [plans](#) to electrify its school buses using about 25 percent of its funds, and Washington State is investing nearly 50 percent of its \$112 million into upgrading buses, including school bus fleets. Residents of New Mexico, where it is estimated that 1 in 11 students suffers from asthma and other respiratory problems, recently [urged](#) Governor Martinez to invest its VW settlement funds in electric school buses. These are just a few examples, with more expected to be announced in the coming months.”

“Electric school bus [manufacturers](#) include Lion, Starcraft, TransTech, and Blue Bird, which [released](#) two electric school bus models just last year. They can travel up to 100 miles on a single charge, which meets student travel needs in most major cities — the places where we have some of our dirtiest air. As battery efficiency continues to improve, students in rural areas will be able to benefit from clean, zero emission buses, too.”

## Children Need Zero-Emissions, Electric School Buses

<https://cleantechnica.com/2018/02/05/children-need-zero-emissions-electric-school-buses/>

Electric Bus Analysis for New York City Transit

<http://www.columbia.edu/~ja3041/Electric%20Bus%20Analysis%20for%20NYC%20Transit%20by%20J%20Aber%20Columbia%20University%20-%20May%202016.pdf>

Zero Emission Bus Fact Sheet

[https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/new-jersey-chapter/Handouts/VW\\_Zero\\_Emission\\_Bus\\_Factsheet.pdf](https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/new-jersey-chapter/Handouts/VW_Zero_Emission_Bus_Factsheet.pdf)

I thank the commission for their time in reading my email.

Warmest regards,  
Vijay Govindan