[DATE]

[CONTACT NAME]

[BENEFICIARY AGENCY]

[STREET ADDRESS]

[CITY, STATE ZIP]

Re: Using Volkswagen Settlement Funds to fund propane-fueled school buses

Dear [CONTACT NAME],

On October 25, 2016, the U.S. Department of Justice entered into a partial settlement with Volkswagen that will result in [STATE] receiving [FUNDING AMOUNT], which must be used to implement projects that reduce smog-forming nitrogen oxide (“NOx”) emissions (the “Volkswagen Settlement Funds”).[[1]](#footnote-1) This represents a tremendous opportunity to support local businesses and school districts in accelerating the clean-up of older, pre-emission diesel buses in [STATE], especially in communities that have been disproportionately burdened by these vehicles. NOx emission reductions are especially important for your state, given that [INSERT POPULATION FROM CITATION] residents of [STATE] are exposed to ozone pollution levels that exceed the EPA standard.[[2]](#footnote-2)

As the [POSITION] of the Blue Bird dealership in [LOCATION],[[3]](#footnote-3) I write to recommend that the [BENEFICIARY AGENCY], as part of its potential role as Beneficiary, implement programs that increase the use of propane school buses because they offer a cost-effective strategy to reduce NOx emissions and improve public health. [NAME OF DEALER] would like to support your efforts, with the assistance of our partnership with ROUSH CleanTech, which has helped deploy over 9,500 propane-fueled buses in more than 650 school districts nationwide.

Propane school buses can be a smart investment for [STATE]. Our propane school bus customers, developed through our 25 years of alternative fuel experience, have seen tremendous benefits, including fuel cost reductions of 60 percent per gallon and operations and maintenance savings of $0.37 per mile, as compared to diesel.[[4]](#footnote-4) Propane school buses can thus support the [BENEFICIARY AGENCY]’s efforts to achieve cost-effective NOx emissions reductions.

Propane-fueled school buses exist today that are much cleaner than even the cleanest diesel school buses. In fact, starting with model year 2017, we will offer the propane-fueled Vision Type C school bus, in partnership with ROUSH CleanTech and Ford Motor Company. This bus will be certified at 0.05 grams NOx per brake horsepower-hour (g/bhp-hr), which is 75 percent cleaner than today’s cleanest diesel buses.[[5]](#footnote-5) What’s more, these new propane school buses will be 99 percent cleaner than the oldest, dirtiest buses still operating in many of our state’s school districts.[[6]](#footnote-6)

Propane buses also significantly reduce children’s exposure to emissions that are associated with increased asthma emergencies, bronchitis, and school absenteeism, especially among asthmatic children.[[7]](#footnote-7) Propane school buses effectively eliminate diesel particulate matter emissions that are associated with cancer and thousands of premature deaths nationwide every year. These vehicles are also a safe transportation solution because propane is non-toxic, non-carcinogenic and non-corrosive, and because their vehicle fuel tanks are 20 times more puncture-resistant than gasoline or diesel tanks.[[8]](#footnote-8)

[NAME OF DEALER] would like to work with you and your team to ensure the most cost-effective and environmentally beneficial use of [STATE]’s Volkswagen Settlement Funds. Towards that end, we request that [BENEFICIARY AGENCY] implement programs that increase the use of propane school buses.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to continued dialogue with you and your team, and to a future collaboration that will help [STATE] meet its air quality goals.

Sincerely,

[BLUE BIRD NAME]

[POSITION]

Blue Bird

[PHONE] / [EMAIL]

cc: [GOVERNOR]

1. United States, In Re: Volkswagen “Clean Diesel” Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation. Order Granting the United States’ Motion to Enter Proposed Amended Consent Decree, MDL No. 2372 CRB (JSC). <http://www.cand.uscourts.gov/crb/vwmdl>, October 25, 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Green Book 8-Hour Ozone (2008) Area Information.” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <https://www.epa.gov/green-book/green-book-8-hour-ozone-2008-area-information>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Blue Bird has been providing alternative fuel solutions since 1991 and. as the number one manufacturer of alternative fuel school buses, Blue Bird has produced ten times more alternative fueled buses than all of our competitors combined. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. “Propane Testimonials.” Blue Bird. <http://www.blue-bird.com/blue-bird/propane-testimonials.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. For model year 2010 and newer diesel engines, EPA established a NOx emission standard of 0.2 g NOx / bhp-hr. Please refer to EPA’s [summary table](https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyNET.exe/P100O9ZZ.TXT?ZyActionD=ZyDocument&Client=EPA&Index=2011+Thru+2015&Docs=&Query=&Time=&EndTime=&SearchMethod=1&TocRestrict=n&Toc=&TocEntry=&QField=&QFieldYear=&QFieldMonth=&QFieldDay=&IntQFieldOp=0&ExtQFieldOp=0&XmlQuery=&File=D%3A%5Czyfiles%5CIndex%20Data%5C11thru15%5CTxt%5C00000019%5CP100O9ZZ.txt&User=ANONYMOUS&Password=anonymous&SortMethod=h%7C-&MaximumDocuments=1&FuzzyDegree=0&ImageQuality=r75g8/r75g8/x150y150g16/i425&Display=hpfr&DefSeekPage=x&SearchBack=ZyActionL&Back=ZyActionS&BackDesc=Results%20page&MaximumPages=1&ZyEntry=1&SeekPage=x&ZyPURL) of diesel engine exhaust emission standards for further detail. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. For model year 1998 to 2003 diesel engines, EPA established a NOx emission standard of 4.0 g NOx / bhp-hr. Please refer to EPA’s [summary table](https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyNET.exe/P100O9ZZ.TXT?ZyActionD=ZyDocument&Client=EPA&Index=2011+Thru+2015&Docs=&Query=&Time=&EndTime=&SearchMethod=1&TocRestrict=n&Toc=&TocEntry=&QField=&QFieldYear=&QFieldMonth=&QFieldDay=&IntQFieldOp=0&ExtQFieldOp=0&XmlQuery=&File=D%3A%5Czyfiles%5CIndex%20Data%5C11thru15%5CTxt%5C00000019%5CP100O9ZZ.txt&User=ANONYMOUS&Password=anonymous&SortMethod=h%7C-&MaximumDocuments=1&FuzzyDegree=0&ImageQuality=r75g8/r75g8/x150y150g16/i425&Display=hpfr&DefSeekPage=x&SearchBack=ZyActionL&Back=ZyActionS&BackDesc=Results%20page&MaximumPages=1&ZyEntry=1&SeekPage=x&ZyPURL) of diesel engine exhaust emission standards for further detail. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Adar, S. et al. “Adopting Clean Fuels and Technologies on School Buses. Pollution and Health Impacts in Children.” ATS Journals, Volume 191, Issue 12. <http://www.atsjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1164/rccm.201410-1924OC#.WA-HlNUrJhE>, June 15, 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. “Propane Autogas – Safe and Reliable.” Blue Bird. <https://www.blue-bird.com/blue-bird/Propane-is-safe.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)