[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 accelerate 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 [POSITION] of the [SCHOOL DISTRICT] in [LOCATION], 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.

In order to help improve our children’s health, [SCHOOL DISTRICT] has replaced XX pre-2007 diesel buses with propane buses. These new buses reduce children’s exposure to emissions that are associated with pre-2007 diesel buses, including increased asthma emergencies, bronchitis, and school absenteeism, especially among asthmatic children.[[3]](#footnote-3) Propane school buses also effectively eliminate diesel particulate matter emissions that are associated with cancer and thousands of premature deaths nationwide every year.

Safety is critical to [SCHOOL DISTRICT]. We decided to use propane school buses 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.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Propane school buses can be a smart investment for [STATE] as well as they can yield 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.[[5]](#footnote-5) With recent reports showing that teachers are spending an average of $500 each year of their own money on classroom supplies, it is crucial that states find ways to get more funds directly invested into classrooms. Propane school buses can save money for school districts that can be reinvested directly into the classroom.

[SCHOOL DISTRICT] 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 the [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 the [STATE] meet its air quality goals.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[POSITION]

[SCHOOL DISTRICT]

[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. 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-3)
4. “Propane Autogas – Safe and Reliable.” Blue Bird. <https://www.blue-bird.com/blue-bird/Propane-is-safe.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. “Propane Testimonials.” Blue Bird. <http://www.blue-bird.com/blue-bird/propane-testimonials.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)