Michael Wise

From: [redacted] Victoria Henson

Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 11:03 PM
To: VW Settlement
Subject: VW Settlement Money Should Be Invested in Vehicle Electrification and Charging

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Dear Director Ray Farmer,

Stop holding our state back. Every time South Carolina invests in outdated infrastructure, we are being set up for early obsolescence, which will cost more down the road. Diesel buses are just one of those outdated updates: it might be a new bus, but it's an outdated design. It is a waste of money to continue living in the past. Diesel buses do not serve our citizens, our tourist industry, or our environment. They certainly aren't the image of a forward thinking state that plans for the future.

The State of South Carolina will be receiving almost $34 million to reduce diesel emissions as part of the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust and this money should be invested in vehicle electrification and charging equipment.

Investing in an electric vehicle future for South Carolina would lower costs to taxpayers and consumers and reduce pollution, making for a healthier environment and better public health.

The State has identified the funding priorities of bus upgrades and the installation of light-duty zero emission vehicle supply equipment.

The supply equipment allocation should be the full allowable 15% and should go toward electric vehicle charging equipment, and the remaining 85% should be used on electrification of our state's bus fleet.

Electric buses have very low operating costs compared to other fuels, and each electric bus would save approximately $200,000 in fuel and maintenance costs over the vehicle's lifetime. Additionally, electric buses do not pollute like fossil fueled buses do, which protects the environment and public health. This is especially important for school buses, to spare children from exposure to diesel fumes which can cause or exacerbate serious respiratory diseases.

Thank you for taking my comments.

Sincerely,
Ms. Victoria Henson
[redacted] Easley, SC [redacted]