



**Good for the Economy.
Good for the Environment.**

November 18, 2016

Dr. Larry Wolk
Ms. Martha Rudolph
Mr. Will Allison
Colorado Department of Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Dr South.
Denver, CO 80246
cdphe.commentsapcd@state.co.us

RE: Environmental Mitigation Trust - Volkswagen (VW) Consent Decree

Dear Dr. Wolk, Ms. Rudolph and Mr. Allison,

As Colorado business leaders and investors who are members of the national, nonpartisan business group Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), we are writing to you about the Environmental Mitigation Trust from the recent Volkswagen emissions scandal. As you know, this trust is allocating about \$61 million to Colorado for emission-reduction projects.

The settlement represents a major opportunity to invest in cleaner, more reliable, and affordable transportation options. Invested properly, these funds can help expand our economy, create jobs, and stabilize transportation costs for residents and businesses. The settlement also helps Colorado's transportation sector reduce emissions, which cleans our air and improves the quality of life for residents in both urban and rural areas.

That's why we urge you to direct the funds to the cleanest possible purposes.

The Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) should invest the highest amount allowable of the funds (15 percent, or \$9.1 million) in electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.

Funding at this level could pay for about 60 EV fast-charging locations – even more if additional private or public funds are leveraged. (A cutting-edge EV station costs approximately \$150,000.) If charging stations are installed evenly every 30-50 miles, they can help electrify all of Colorado's major highway corridors and give an ever-expanding number of EV drivers the range they need to reach thousands of new destinations across the state.

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More EVs also means more jobs. According to E2's Clean Jobs America, more than 55,000 people already work in the electric vehicle industry nationwide – a number that's growing each day. The more EV investments Colorado makes, the more the state will attract the kinds of high-paying EV companies seeking to employ skilled workers.

To help improve the quality of the air we all breathe, CDPHE should spend the remaining 85 percent (or \$51.9 million) on clean, fully electric trucks and buses – not diesel or Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles.

If we use the VW funds to replace old diesels with newer diesel or natural gas vehicles, we squander an important economic and environmental opportunity. Bus and delivery routes often run through densely populated urban areas and neighborhoods crowded with pedestrians. Older buses and trucks cause noise pollution and emit diesel fumes. Replacing fossil-fuel-powered buses and delivery trucks on these routes with electric would reduce emissions, improving the quality of life and overall health of neighborhoods across the state.

Furthermore, as more wind and solar projects are developed across Colorado, we can increasingly power our electric buses and vehicles with home-grown electricity – not dirty fossil fuels imported from out-of-state or overseas. This helps stabilize transportation costs for residents and businesses¹. It also boosts Colorado's economy by providing a local market for Colorado renewable energy.

E2 is eager to serve as a business-focused resource for you as you seek to invest settlement funds in ways that deliver the most value to Colorado and ensure that our state remains a national clean tech leader. We know that strong environmental policy is good for the economy – and the VW settlement provides an excellent opportunity to put that into action.

We thank you for your continued leadership in working to protect Colorado's clean air.

Sincerely,

E2 Rocky Mountains Chapter Members

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ⁱ Saving Money with Electric Vehicles: <http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/articles/saving-money-electric-vehicles>