



SOMERSET COUNTY ENERGY COUNCIL

20 Grove Street

P.O. Box 3000

Somerville, New Jersey 08876-1262

(908) 231-7021 Fax (908) 707-1749 TDD (908) 704-6359

www.energysmartsomerset.org



November 15, 2017

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Freeholder Liaison

Bureau of Mobile Sources
Mailcode 401-02E, P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
e-mail: VWComments@dep.nj.gov

RE: Recommendations concerning Use of VW Settlement Funds

Dear Sir,

It is our understanding that development of a Draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan comprised of a summary of how New Jersey proposes to use the \$72 million in mitigation funds allocated to it under the VW Settlement is underway. The Council has reviewed the list of Eligible Mitigation Actions and Expenditures (Appendix D-2) available at the following link: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/vw/EMA.pdf>.

The Council supports utilizing at least 15% of the funding for charging station infrastructure. Use of these funds should be prioritized to promote the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at public facilities such as government administrative/ services buildings, schools, libraries and health care institutions. We also believe it is appropriate to prioritize portions of this funding for repowering and replacing publicly owned truck and bus fleets with all-electric engines. Electric engine replacement and repowering is supported as opposed to replacement/repowering with new diesel or alternate fueled engines across all transportation vehicle types listed in Appendix D-2 because of the air quality, public health and greenhouse gas emission reduction benefits associated with electric engines. Furthermore, the prioritization of funding in this way will provide greater opportunities for state, county and municipal government entities to champion emission-free vehicles and serve as a role-model for the private sector; thereby contributing toward the expansion of the state's electric vehicle industry and enhancement of the state's overall economic competitiveness and quality of life.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer these recommendations.

Sincerely,


William Amann, PE, LEED Fellow, DCEP, Chairman

cc: Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Mayors & School Superintendents, Somerset County Municipalities
Somerset County Transportation Office