



Where Minnesota School Boards Learn to Lead

January 16, 2018

Mr. John Linc Stine, Commissioner
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

RE: Upcoming Volkswagen Settlement

Dear Commissioner Stine:

We recognize that the state of Minnesota is eligible for up to \$47,000,000 in funds to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from diesel engines. The Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) supports dedicating at least 50 percent of the funds to be used to replace older school district- and bus operator-owned diesel buses. MSBA would also be willing to help in the governance and distribution of grant awards, if needed.

As an Association that represents 332 of our public school districts and school boards, we believe that some of these funds should be used to help our school districts replace older diesel buses with new diesel, natural gas, electric, or propane vehicles.

We believe it is essential to give our public school districts options to meet their district transportation needs based on their existing transportation contracts and geographical challenges that exist.

Minnesota's school districts transport hundreds of thousands of public school students to and from school, to school events, and between schools on a daily basis.

At a minimum, MSBA believes it makes a great deal of sense to invest at least 50 percent of these funds to not only enhance the environment and student safety, but also to meet a statewide need to improve the quality of our school district and bus operator transportation services.

Sincerely,

Kirk Schneidawind, Executive Director
Minnesota School Boards Association

cc: Roger Leider, Executive Director, Minnesota Propane Association
Gary Amoroso, Executive Director, Minnesota Association of School Administrators
Connie Nordquist, Executive Director, Minnesota Association of School Business Officials
Representative Jenifer Loon, Chair, House Education Finance Committee
Senator Carla Nelson, Chair, Senate E-12 Finance Committee

MINNESOTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

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