

September 12, 2017

Dear Governor Ducey:

As members of the Arizona State Legislature, we strongly encourage you to use our state's allocation of more than \$53 million from the Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Fund for two purposes: the benefit of Arizona's K-12 public schools and protection of Arizona's environment and community health via the purchase and investment of electric, zero-emissions bus fleets.

The settlement provides more than \$53 million in valuable funding to Arizona that can be used to purchase new electric school buses or retrofit existing buses to meet zero emissions standards. We strongly believe that this settlement provides us a unique opportunity to be a national leader on the issue of fighting diesel pollution.

While the settlement requires the funds to be used for air quality-related projects, using these funds to also address an important capital need for school districts will provide a second important benefit to our state. We must also consider the practicality of using this money for new low-emissions buses – a move that will save our state \$11,000 annually on fuel and maintenance costs per new bus purchased. In fact, every diesel bus replaced with a zero-emission bus is the equivalent to taking 27 cars off the road.

This pollution can cause respiratory problems including asthma attacks, which are the leading chronic illness and the number one cause of school absences for children and adolescents. But, for the first time, we have a viable alternative – clean energy, zero-emissions school buses.

Every day, when parents put their children on buses for school, they trust that the developing minds and bodies of their children will be safe. And approximately 300,000 kids in our state rely on buses to get to and from school. As a state, it is our responsibility to ensure that those buses are not harming our children with dirty air and cancer-causing pollutants. These school buses pass through virtually every neighborhood in the state, at least twice per day, bringing concentrated pollution directly into our homes and neighborhoods with low income communities and communities of color carrying the heaviest burden of filthy air. Using these funds to improve the state's school bus fleet will bring substantial health benefits for all Arizonans.

We urge you to take bold action and direct the Department of Administration to submit a mitigation plan calling for the funds to be used exclusively for new and repowered school buses throughout Arizona.

Sincerely,



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Charlene R. Fernandez  
Democratic Whip  
Arizona State Representative, District 4



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Reginald Bolding Jr.  
Arizona State Representative, District 27



Ken Clark  
Arizona State Representative District, 24



Lela Alston  
Arizona State Representative District, 24



Sean Bowie  
Arizona State Senator District, 18



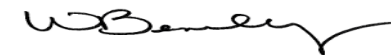
Athena Salman  
Arizona State Representative District, 26



Lupe C. Contreras  
Democratic Whip  
Arizona State Senator District, 19



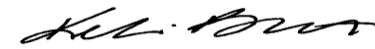
Mark Cardenas  
Arizona State Representative District, 19



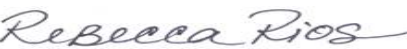
Wenona Benally  
Arizona State Representative District, 7



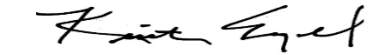
Rosanna Gabaldon  
Arizona State Representative District, 2



Kelli Butler  
Arizona State Representative District, 28



Rebecca Rios  
Democratic Leader  
Arizona State Representative District, 27



Kirsten Engel  
Arizona State Representative District, 10



Dr. Gerae Peten  
Arizona State Representative District, 4



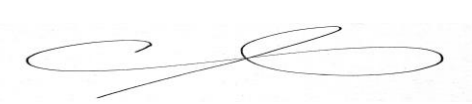
Martin J. Quezada  
Democratic Whip  
Arizona State Senator District, 29



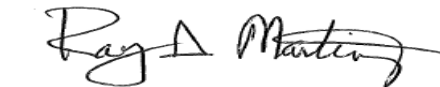
Daniel Hernandez  
Arizona State Representative District, 2



Steve Farley  
Assistant Minority Leader  
Arizona State Senator District, 9



Cesar Chavez  
Arizona State Representative District, 29



Ray Martinez  
Arizona State Representative District, 30



Richard Andrade  
Arizona State Representative District, 29



Juan Mendez  
Arizona State Senator District, 26



Andrea Dalessandro  
Arizona State Senator District, 2



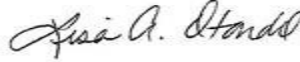
Isela Blanc  
Arizona State Representative District, 26



Macario Saldate  
Arizona State Representative District, 3



Sally Ann Gonzales  
Arizona State Representative District, 3



Lisa A. Otondo  
Arizona State Senator District, 4



Mitzi Epstein  
Arizona State Representative District, 18



Pamela Powers Hannley  
Arizona State Representative District, 9



Otoniel "Tony" Navarrete  
Arizona State Representative District, 30



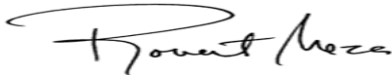
Eric Descheenie  
Arizona State Representative District, 7



David Bradley  
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Diego Espinoza  
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Robert Meza  
Arizona State Senator District, 30



Catherine Miranda  
Arizona State Senator District, 27