

From: [Gustafson, Brian](#)
To: dawnaleitzkecloud@me.com
Cc: [Regynski, Barb](#)
Subject: RE: Propane's Role in South Dakota's Volkswagen Settlement Environmental Mitigation Plan
Date: Friday, March 03, 2017 8:59:16 AM

Dawna,

Thanks for your email on how propane's role in South Dakota's Mitigation Plan for the Volkswagen Settlement. We will certainly consider this option and provide you with more input as we move forward with drafting the plan.

Thanks again and we will keep in touch.

Brian Gustafson
Administrator
Air Quality Program

-----Original Message-----

From: Dawna Leitzke [<mailto:dawnaleitzkecloud@me.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 7:37 PM
To: Gustafson, Brian
Subject: Propane's Role in South Dakota's Volkswagen Settlement Environmental Mitigation Plan

Dawna Leitzke
PO Box 1058
Pierre, SD 57501

March 2, 2017

Dear Brian Gustafson,

As Executive Director of the South Dakota Petroleum and Propane Marketers Association, I am contacting you to discuss how propane vehicles can have a critical role in offsetting the harmful emissions caused by the Volkswagen diesel scandal. Vehicles operating on propane - also known as autogas - are proven to be clean, safe, and affordable for transportation fleets across the country. As you develop South Dakota's Environmental Mitigation Plan, I encourage you to include propane-powered vehicles.

From 2009 to 2015, German automaker Volkswagen programmed certain vehicles to deliberately cheat laboratory emissions testing, resulting in approximately 500,000 vehicles in the United States emitting nitrogen oxide (NOx) up to 40 times greater than the U.S. standards allow. In October 2016, a judge approved a partial settlement between the Justice Department and Volkswagen, resulting in Volkswagen setting up a \$2.7 billion environmental mitigation trust fund to offset the excess emissions from the affected vehicles. South Dakota is eligible to receive \$7,500,000, some of which can be effectively spent on clean-burning propane vehicles.

One of the best ways our state could use these dollars is to replace older, diesel-powered school buses with new propane-powered versions. School districts across the country have adopted propane school buses to safely transport their children. In these instances, the benefits of propane have been realized almost immediately. From cleaner emissions and quieter rides to lower maintenance costs and fuel savings, propane school buses are a proven winner for school districts.

The main purpose of the Volkswagen Settlement funds is to offset the extra NOx emissions caused by the scandal. Propane vehicles have a long track record as a clean, alternative fuel. I know that there is great interest in how South Dakota will allocate its share of the Volkswagen Settlement funds. As you continue to examine the best ways

to reduce emissions and benefit our communities, please include propane-powered vehicles in your Environmental Mitigation Plan.

Sincerely,
Dawna Leitzke