

From: no-reply@caspio.com
To: [DENR-INTERNET INFORMATION](#); [Regynski, Barb](#)
Subject: [EXT] Comments concerning revisions to South Dakota's Volkswagen Beneficiary Mitigation Plan
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 10:31:42 AM
Attachments: [VW mitigation comment.pdf](#)

VW Mitigation Plan Revision Comment

Date Comment Filed:

04/09/2021 10:31:29

Commenter Info:

Heidi Kolbeck-Urlacher, Center for Rural Affairs
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Comments :

Please see attached comment from the Center for Rural Affairs.



CENTER *for* RURAL AFFAIRS

April 2, 2021

Barb Regynski
Air Quality Program
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Attn: Draft Revisions Volkswagen Beneficiary Mitigation Plan

Re: Center for Rural Affairs Comment

The Center for Rural Affairs is a private non-profit organization that works to promote opportunity. We engage people in decisions that affect their community and the quality of their lives.

As demand for electric vehicles continues to grow, South Dakota must plan for the future of transportation. Investment in electric vehicle charging stations is key in ensuring the state has a robust and reliable charging network that allows electric vehicles access to all areas where people live, work, and travel.

The Center supports the proposed revision to the state's Volkswagen Beneficiary Mitigation Plan to increase funding for Category 9, electric vehicle charging stations. Interest in the charging station program was clearly shown during the last round of applications when demand outstripped available awards. The proposed changes reallocate funding in a way that better matches interest and need. We urge the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to commit 15% of allowed funding to Category 9, rather than a variable amount. This will allow the program to better meet demand for charging infrastructure buildout.

To meet South Dakota's future transportation needs, smart planning is required. Charging stations will be needed not only along interstate routes, but everywhere that people live and work. This includes rural areas. Bringing electric vehicle charging stations to rural communities is not only important to the people who reside there, but also for the state's tourism industry. Creating a reliable charging infrastructure that reaches all areas of the state, including small communities, will create new travel corridors, allow drivers more options for efficient travel, and ensure rural communities continue to be vibrant, accessible places to visit and call home.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Kolbeck-Urlacher
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Brandon, SD