



April 27, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Smith
Chairman
House Finance Committee
77 S High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Smith,

We respectfully request you eliminate section 737.20 in the Main Operating Appropriations Bill.

Clean Fuels Ohio is opposed to this section for three reasons:

1. The federal settlement with VW already sets up clear parameters for the program. These parameters are based on VW's violation of federal clean air laws. As such, the sole focus is on reduction of NOx emissions since that was the problem with offending vehicles. Any effort to impose a different or additional standard, such as carbon dioxide, is out of step with the settlement and could frustrate the state's efforts to develop a program acceptable to the trustee. It may potentially put the funds at risk.

2. This proposal would run directly counter to the Ohio EPA's expressed intention to follow federal guidance that explicitly allows up to 15% of the Appendix D VW funds to be used for zero emission vehicle infrastructure. We strongly support this given a lack of any other sources of funding for electric vehicle infrastructure. Our position is supported by a wide variety of stakeholders through Smart Columbus and throughout Ohio. Based on the OEPA draft plan, 85% of funds still would be available for fleet projects. Additional funding sources, such as Ohio DERG, also are available for fleet replacement projects, including transit fleets.

3. This proposal attempts to create a carve out for certain types of fleets. We appreciate and support transit authorities but the purpose of this program is to fund the most deserving projects. Private, government, schools and other, including transit, are eligible. To carve out a special portion of funding for one type would penalize all others deserving of consideration. We strongly oppose any carve out based on fleet type.

To be clear, we strongly support public transit and would be supportive of more funding, especially for transit using alternative fuels. However, the way this provision is written will likely have a variety of unintended consequences and hinder efforts to advance other projects as intended.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Spofforth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sam Spofforth
Executive Director
Clean Fuels Ohio