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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Secretary Patrick McDonnell
Rachel Carson Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: Comments on Proposed Volkswagen Beneficiary Mitigation Plan

June 14, 2017

Dear Secretary McDonnell –

I write to offer comments regarding the \$118 million anticipated payment from the Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement resulting from the Volkswagen diesel emissions scandal. It is my understanding that Pennsylvania will receive these funds based on the percentage of faulty VW diesel vehicles sold in the Commonwealth, and that the funds are to be utilized to reduce pollution from diesel engines.

Of all the vehicles on the road, the most consistent belchers of black smoke are older Class 8 tractor trucks. These trucks pollute with every shift of the gears, pouring forth noxious gasses day after day; mile after mile. As a point of reference, please see the attached picture, which I took earlier today on my commute to the Capitol.

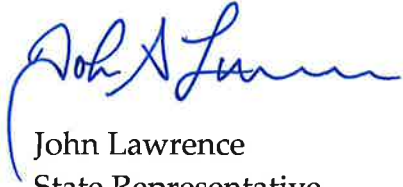
If Pennsylvania receives money from a settlement resulting from dirty diesel vehicles, in my view, any funds received should be used to reduce diesel pollution on Pennsylvania highways to the maximum extent possible. The Department, on page 10 of the Beneficiary Mitigation Plan, proposes an allocation of 20 to 40 percent of the total funds received to "On-Road Fleet Projects." Also on page 10, a footnote reads that "The Department is seeking comment on the percentage of Pennsylvania's funding allocation from the Mitigation Trust Fund that should be committed to each of these project groups."

With this in mind, I strongly encourage a maximum funding allocation from the Mitigation Trust Fund be utilized to address grossly polluting On-Road Fleet tractor

trucks, by either adding emissions controls to these vehicles, or purchasing and removing them from the road altogether. I would suggest a minimum of 40 percent of the total funds for this purpose, but would prefer to see an even higher percentage.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter. If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Kind Regards –



John Lawrence
State Representative
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Diesel Pollution, June 14, 2017, Route 30, Lancaster, PA