

December 18, 2017

Ms. Maia Bellon  
Director  
Department of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Director Bellon:

RE: Maximizing Settlement Fund Allocation for Charging and Hydrogen Refueling Infrastructure

The Association of Global Automakers (Global Automakers) represents the U.S. operations of international motor vehicle manufacturers, original equipment suppliers, and other automotive-related trade associations. In 2016, international automakers manufactured 69% of all new motor vehicles and 80% of green technology vehicles sold in Washington.

Global Automakers and our members have a longstanding commitment to improving air quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing fuel efficiency. Our members are investing heavily in alternative fuel and green technologies, including being the first to successfully launch hybrid electric vehicles 20 years ago and since then plug-in and fuel cell electric vehicles. We are proud that the number of electric-drive vehicles, in a variety of options and price points, are increasing every year.

Under Appendix D of the Volkswagen settlement, Washington is due to receive \$28 million, which can be used for a variety of environmental-based projects. A maximum of 15% of this money, or \$4.2 million, can be used for the acquisition, installation, operation, and maintenance of electric vehicle infrastructure.

Global Automakers urges the State of Washington to allocate the full 15% towards this effort and to support all electric vehicle infrastructure – charging stations *and* hydrogen refueling stations. The state needs to establish a strong foundation for electric vehicles by expanding its network of charging and building out a network of hydrogen refueling stations to support sales of electric vehicles.

Year to date for 2017, 2.30% of new vehicles sold in Washington were electric-drive vehicles, third highest sales rate for electric-drive vehicles in the U.S. With a foundation already in place to support electric-drive vehicles sales, it becomes all the more important that Washington identify and commit additional funding for infrastructure, which is critical to the state's ability to advance electrification. Range anxiety is a significant impediment to sale of electric vehicles. Investment in electric vehicle infrastructure responds to this problem while furthering air quality and supporting customers in your state that choose to buy an electric vehicle.



Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your consideration of our request, and your continued support of electrification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Porter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Damon Shelby Porter  
Director  
State Government Affairs

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Rege", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julia M. Rege  
Director  
Environment and Energy