

Keara Berlin

Thank you for creating this plan for using the VW settlement money. I think it is a much-needed step in the right direction, and I applaud you for your efforts. This plan has my full support.

During the implementation of the plan, I strongly urge you to maintain close consultation with environmental justice and public health stakeholders in order to achieve these goals. Communities of color and low-income households may face significant social and economic barriers to accessing clean air. Your continued effective engagement will ensure that selected projects are responsive to community needs and deliver the greatest health benefits. Furthermore, as you explore funding projects that qualify for matching funds, I ask that you keep in consideration those communities that may not be able to offer a match but still have an acute need for air quality improvements.

I appreciate that you have chosen to prioritize funding all-electric engines and target public transit fleets first. In order to make these purchases more cost-effective, I urge you to include Governor Inslee's Executive Order 14-04 in the plan, which requires state agencies to include the cost of carbon emissions in cost-benefit analyses for public fleet purchases.

Thank you for your work in creating this draft with strong goals, principles, and priorities.