



RECEIVED
DEC 18 2017
Dept. of Ecology

December 13, 2017

Mr. Brett Rude
Department of Ecology
Air Quality Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Subj: Public Comment on Mitigation Plan

Dear Mr. Rude:

The Bainbridge Island City Council recently discussed the application Washington State is planning to submit to receive \$112.7 million from the \$3 billion VW settlement agreement for installing software in their diesel vehicles that cheated emissions tests and allowed for excessive emissions. The State has developed a Mitigation Plan to reduce past, present and future harm by reducing other emissions.

Currently this plan is available for public comment and there are numerous items in that plan relevant to Bainbridge Island, including electrification of the Seattle/Bainbridge ferries, electrification of diesel buses, and installation of new charging stations to support greater Electric Vehicle (EV) use. Given our community's reliance on this ferry system, the regional air pollution current diesel systems cause and the greenhouse gas emissions they generate, it would be very beneficial to Bainbridge Island to have the existing ferries serving Bainbridge Island converted to a largely electric ferry system.

Additional benefits that could be realized include, reduction in fuel costs, reduction in maintenance costs, improved air quality, drastic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and reduced risk of fuel spills. Thank you for considering these comments, which were unanimously supported by the Bainbridge Island City Council during its December 12, 2017 business meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Val Tollefson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Val Tollefson
Mayor

CC: City Council

**280 Madison Avenue North
Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110-1812
www.bainbridgewa.gov
206.842.7633**