



SIERRA CLUB
IDAHO CHAPTER

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September 21, 2017

The Honorable Governor C.L. Butch Otter
Governor of Idaho
State Capitol
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Governor Otter,

On behalf of the Idaho Chapter Sierra Club, I am writing to urge you to take advantage of the multi-million dollar funding opportunity available to Idaho for the purpose of investing in electric vehicles and infrastructure. This money will flow from the Environmental Mitigation Trust, created by Volkswagen as part of the recent Volkswagen Settlement. Idaho is expected to receive over \$17 million.

Taking advantage of these funds will mean less money is sent out of state for oil, more in-state jobs are created, better vehicles for Idahoans, less pollution, cleaner and healthier air -- particularly for those highly impacted by air pollution.

In order for Idaho to be given this funding, you, as our State Governor, must submit a certification that identifies a Lead Agency ("Beneficiary"), no later than 60 days after the Environmental Mitigation Trust Effective Date ("TED"). The U.S. District Court of Northern California approved the proposed Environmental Mitigation Trust agreement and will be setting the TED in next few weeks, so it is now imperative that we prepare to submit. If Idaho fails to submit beneficiary certifications by this deadline, we will be permanently excluded from this funding.

In addition, the beneficiary has no later than 90 days from the date of beneficiary designation to submit its plan to distribute this funding, consistent with the terms of the trust. The Idaho Chapter Sierra Club would like to be included in identifying elements of this plan that will further improve our state's public and environmental health.

We ask that the beneficiary be advised to develop the plan with significant public input. In addition, we would like to see funding allocations set as follows: 15% of the total amount to DC fast charging infrastructure for electric vehicles on state transportation corridors and the remaining 85% spent on electric vehicles with priority given to the electrification of school buses, shuttle buses or transit buses. We want to ensure that all funds are spent on electric vehicles and infrastructure, with zero allocations for diesel or alternative fuels, to ensure maximized benefits for our environment and clean air.

Thank you for the attention. We encourage you to take swift preparatory action (i.e., compiling required beneficiary certifications) now. If you have any questions or require any other information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Edwina Allen

Edwina Allen, Chair
Idaho Chapter Sierra Club