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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 6

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Patricia Roybal Caballero and Linda M. Lopez

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE VOLKSWAGEN TRUST SETTLEMENT FUNDS BE USED
TO PURCHASE ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES.

WHEREAS, the Volkswagen trust settlement fund will pay
eighteen million dollars (\$18,000,000) to New Mexico in
satisfaction of Volkswagen's legal liability for deliberately
evading federal emissions requirements; and

WHEREAS, one purpose of the settlement fund is for states
to identify and fund projects that will reduce nitrous oxide
emissions; and

WHEREAS, school bus routes are ubiquitous in New Mexico,
and nitrous oxide emissions from diesel-burning school buses
affect the health and well-being of entire communities, not
just children; and

WHEREAS, communities that are located near school bus idle

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1 stations experience increased health impacts from the emissions
2 of diesel-powered school buses; and

3 WHEREAS, nitrous oxide emissions from diesel-burning
4 engines are closely linked to chronic respiratory illnesses;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, respiratory and pulmonary illnesses impose
7 increased medical costs on communities; and

8 WHEREAS, these medical costs are particularly challenging
9 for families without health coverage; and

10 WHEREAS, asthma attacks in children are a traumatic
11 experience for entire families; and

12 WHEREAS, children with chronic illnesses can experience
13 delayed development, both from neurological impacts and from
14 simply missing days of school; and

15 WHEREAS, public employees driving school buses bear a
16 disproportionate brunt of the health impacts from diesel-
17 burning school buses; and

18 WHEREAS, there is potential for the state's already
19 overburdened and underfunded school districts to save money on
20 the costs of fuel by using electric school buses; and

21 WHEREAS, parents place their trust in New Mexico's school
22 districts every time they put their children on school buses,
23 and districts are doing everything in their power to keep New
24 Mexico children safe and healthy; and

25 WHEREAS, communities statewide want to do their part to

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1 fight against global climate change; and

2 WHEREAS, the use of diesel fuel in school buses supports
3 harmful extraction practices in the state by the fossil fuel
4 industry; and

5 WHEREAS, it is important for governmental policies to
6 support the health of future generations, create more resilient
7 communities and improve quality of life;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to direct
10 use of the Volkswagen trust settlement fund for the purchase of
11 electric school buses; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of environment, the
14 secretary of public education, the secretary of energy,
15 minerals and natural resources, the secretary of transportation
16 and the secretary of health.

