

Connecticut General Assembly



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Richard Price
860-729-7692

BETHEL AWARDED ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS FUNDING

State Representative Raghib Allie-Brennan (D-Bethel/Danbury/Newtown/Redding) reacted to word today that Bethel will benefit from a legal settlement with Volkswagen (VW) Corporation.

The [Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection](#) (DEEP) announced that \$12.7 million from the legal settlement with Volkswagen over its emissions cheating scandal will go to communities that have been victims of environmental injustice.

Bethel will receive funds to replace fossil fuel-powered school buses with electric equivalents. An electric charging infrastructure will also be funded.

"Electric school buses can significantly reduce our students' exposure to toxic fumes, while also reducing that impact in our communities and neighborhoods," said **Rep. Allie Brennan**. "Students sometimes sit for nearly two hours a day in a diesel school bus, exposed to toxic air in high concentrations, which can cause respiratory diseases, lung cancer, and worsen existing conditions such as asthma. While minimizing this dangerous exposure, electric school buses have multiple benefits beyond improving public health. Electric buses are cleaner, healthier, and cheaper for school districts to run in the long-term. In fact, transitioning the country's entire diesel school bus fleet to electric could prevent an average of 5.3 million tons of greenhouse gasses from being emitted each year. The switch to electric school buses is a smart and necessary move and I applaud DEEP's investment in this program. It is an important and meaningful step."

In 2015, Volkswagen admitted it had installed software designed to cheat emissions tests and deceive federal and state regulators. Nearly 12,000 vehicles under the Porsche-Audi-Volkswagen brand with these so-called "defeat" devices were sold in Connecticut. Funds from the settlement with VW are being used to offset the excess pollution in Connecticut from these vehicles.

Rep. Allie-Brennan is Vice Chair of the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee

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