

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 19, 2015

Michael Horn
President and CEO
Volkswagen (VW) Group of America
2200 Ferdinand Porsche Dr.
Herndon, VA 20171

Dear Mr. Horn:

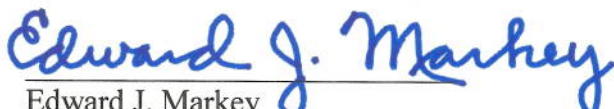
We write to urge you to offer more robust compensation for drivers of all VW vehicles purchased in the United States that contained defeat devices used to circumvent NOX emissions control requirements. We specifically request that you immediately announce VW's willingness to buy back these impacted vehicles, as has already occurred in the EU for VW vehicles whose greenhouse gas emissions levels were wrongly understated. We additionally urge you to offer drivers the fair market value for these vehicles that was in place before VW's illegal activity was made publicly known.


The technologies that are typically used to reduce NOX emissions tend to reduce the fuel economy performance of the vehicle, often because more fuel is needed to enable the technology to operate properly¹. The defeat device technology VW used on its vehicles thus also allowed these vehicles to operate more fuel efficiently. This means not only that vehicle owners purchased vehicles they believed to be 'clean diesel' that turned out to be anything but 'clean', but that once their vehicles are repaired, their fuel economy will be decreased and gasoline costs therefore increased. In response to the damages caused by VW's illegal actions, VW has offered drivers a pittance, which includes a \$500 Volkswagen Prepaid Visa® Loyalty Card, a \$500 Volkswagen Dealership Card, and 24-hour Roadside Assistance at no charge for 3 years.

By contrast, in the EU, where VW acknowledged² that it sold vehicles with "CO2 irregularities," VW has offered to buy back some of the vehicles at the current market value. We believe a similar offer should be made in the U.S., and that VW should offer to buy back *all* vehicles that were equipped with defeat devices at the fair market value that existed before the existence of the defeat devices was known.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important matter. Please provide your response no later than close of business on Friday December 4, 2015. If you have any questions or concerns, please have your staff contact Michal Freedhoff (Senator Markey, 202-224-2742) or Joel Kelsey (Senator Blumenthal, 202-224-2823).

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

¹ <http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/2015/09/vw-volkswagen-emission-cheating>

² <http://www.autocar.co.uk/car-news/industry/vw-emissions-scandal-vw-buy-back-cars-co2-irregularities>