

2020 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS & REVENUE

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC PROTECTION, TOURISM, AND ENERGY

2nd Meeting

February 12, 2020

The Budget Review Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Protection, Tourism, and Energy, of the House Standing Committee on Appropriations & Revenue held its 2st meeting of the 2020 Regular Session on February 12, 2020, Upon Adjournment, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. The Chair called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Members Present: Representative Lynn Bechler, Chair; Representatives Terri Branham Clark, Bart Rowland, and David Hale.

Guests: Rebecca Goodman, Secretary, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Lona Brewer, Staff Assistant, Office of Energy Policy, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Cori Troutman, Director, Division of Financial Management, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Kristin Baldwin, Vice President, Public Affairs and Communications, Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Iris Wilbur Glick, Vice President, Governmental Affairs and Public Policy, Greater Louisville, Inc. John Underwood, Executive Director, Kentucky Propane Education and Research Council; Mark Kopp, Superintendent, Franklin County School District, Brad McKinney, Franklin County School District Department of Maintenance; Dale Penn, Franklin County School District Department of Maintenance.

LRC Staff: Sara Rome, Joey Holt, Ben Thompson, and Jim Thornton

Energy and Environment Cabinet

Secretary Goodman gave an overview of the Cabinet's plan for distribution of the Commonwealth's \$20 million share of the Environmental Mitigation Trust from the Volkswagen settlement. The proposed plan of the Cabinet is to replace one aging school bus in every county in the Commonwealth and utilize balance for aging transit buses in non-attainment areas.

In response to questions from Chairman Bechler, Secretary Goodman stated that the settlement provides for the purchase of one bus for every county as a replacement in order to reduce levels of nitrous oxide. Any extra funds can be used in federally designated non-attainment areas, such as Louisville and Northern Kentucky.

In response to questions from Representative Hale, Secretary Goodman responded that the non-attainment designation is a measure of air quality and that the plan for school bus replacement was based on comments by over 100 school districts. She added that the replacements can be diesel or propane as long as they are cleaner.

Other Concerned Parties

Greater Louisville, Inc.

The presentation of Iris Glick, of Greater Louisville Inc., stated that the federal government had awarded the Transit Authority of River City (TARC) a \$17.3 million Federal Transit Administration grant which is dependent upon a \$4.325 million locally funded match. The position of Ms. Glick and the Louisville Metro Chamber of Commerce is that an appropriation of the settlement funds should be made so that TARC is successful with the grant.

In response to questions from Chairman Bechler, Ms. Glick said that her organization would be happy with legislative plans as long as the \$4.3 million matching funds are included.

Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Kristin Baldwin of the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce stated that Northern Kentucky is a non-attainment area and the settlement plan should focus 80% of the funds on mass transit in these areas.

In response to a question from Chairman Bechler, Ms. Baldwin stated that the six counties with a non-attainment designation will have problems for years and this is a way to leverage the settlement to improve air quality.

Kentucky Propane Education and Research Council

John Underwood, of the Kentucky Propane Education and Research Council, presented the financial benefits of choosing propane fueled buses.

In response to a question from Chairman Bechler, Mr. Underwood and Mr. Kopp answered that the life span of diesel and propane buses is about the same.

There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.