

# **INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS & REVENUE**

## **Budget Review Subcommittee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Protection**

### **Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2021 Interim**

**August 4, 2021**

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The third meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Protection of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, at 9:00 AM, in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Lynn Bechler, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Matt Castlen, Co-Chair; Representative Lynn Bechler, Co-Chair; Senators Christian McDaniel, Morgan McGarvey, Wil Schroder, and Brandon Smith; Representatives Al Gentry, Nima Kulkarni, Savannah Maddox, Bart Rowland, and Russell Webber.

Guests: Rebecca Goodman, Cabinet Secretary, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Kenya Stump, Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Energy Policy; Elisa Hanley, Manager, Pupil Transportation Branch, Kentucky Department of Education; Chay Ritter, Director, Division of District Support, Kentucky Department of Education; Eric Perez, Office of Transportation Delivery, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

LRC Staff: Sara Rome, Kevin Newton, Joseph Holt, Amie Elam

#### **Volkswagen Settlement Funding**

Representatives from the Energy and Environment Cabinet, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet gave the committee an update regarding Volkswagen Settlement funds.

In response to a question from Senator McDaniel, Ms. Stump said that eligible entities would receive funds within 60 days of their request for reimbursement.

In response to a question from Chair Bechler, Ms. Stump said that all 93 school systems that applied for funding were approved. Secretary Goodman said that charging stations for electric vehicles use fairly standard technology across the board. Ms. Stump

added that the Volkswagen Settlement requires that charging stations be universally accepted by all vehicle types and must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements.

In response to a question from Chair Bechler, Mr. Perez stated that the grant amounts vary due to differing needs and levels of federal matching dollars. Mr. Perez said that proof that old buses have been rendered inoperable is required before reimbursement is made. He added that the money made from the recycling of buses goes back to the company's transit operations.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.