



**Press Release – Illinois**  
*For immediate release*

### **Lion Electric Company to Deploy All-Electric School Buses through the Driving a Cleaner Illinois Program**

Illinois – December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Illinois EPA announced awards for the first round of Driving a Cleaner Illinois Program as part of Volkswagen Mitigation Settlement. Two Lion all-electric school buses were awarded to Cook-Illinois Corporation as part of this initiative. Illinois is the first state to have officially awarded all-electric school buses through Volkswagen Mitigation Program.

The program, which is centered around improving air quality standards throughout the state of Illinois will remove two 2009 model year or older diesel school buses and replace them with Lion Electric Co. all-electric school buses in 2019.

John Benish, Jr. of Cook-Illinois stated, “Cook-Illinois Corporation has always been an innovator in alternative power solutions for our school buses; CNG in the 70’s, Propane in the 80’s, Bio-Diesel throughout the past decade, and now an all-electric bus. It has been obvious to us that the future of school busing is all electric. Most school buses have a repetitive route each day, making school transportation the perfect application for electric vehicles. We are looking forward to partnering with Lion Electric Co. to have Illinois school children be among the first in the country to ride an all-electric school bus every day.”

The buses will carry children to school in Richton Park and Chicago Heights. Lion Vice President, Tony Watkins, commented “we are proud to deploy the first all-electric school buses in Illinois with such a well-respected leader in the industry. Cook-Illinois Corp is a great partner with an exceptional reputation for providing safe student transportation. We will support their zero-emission initiative and are committed to providing a 360-degree customer experience throughout the entire lifespan of the vehicle.” Tony also mentioned that “we will leverage our experience and knowledge acquired in other markets to make the transition to electric as effortless and flawless as possible.”

Lion has deployed over 150 zero-emission school buses in North America with more than two million miles driven and proven.

#### **About the Lion Electric Co.**

Lion Electric Co. is an innovative manufacturer of zero emission vehicles. Lion Electric Co.’s vehicle offering includes; the LionC school bus; an all-electric minibus which can serve in the paratransit, school, public-transit or multi-use transportation sectors; and class 5-8 all-electric trucks (launch 2019). Since its foundation in 2008, Lion’s mission has been to develop durable, integrated solutions while reducing its environmental footprint.

Always actively seeking new technologies, Lion vehicles have unique features that are specifically adapted to its users and their everyday needs. The Company believes that transitioning to all-electric vehicles will lead to major improvements in our community, environment and overall quality of life.



**TOGETHER, LET'S DRIVE POWER IN PROGRESS**

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