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Capital Program & Physical Properties

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2555 S. State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

March 18, 2024

Missy Stults
Sustainability and Innovations Director, City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Dr. Stults and the City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations,

I am writing on behalf of the Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) to express our support for the Office of Sustainability and Innovation's application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The grant will help implement a district geothermal system in and around the Bryant neighborhood, which includes our Bryant Elementary School building. We also support launching public engagement and outreach related to designing a second system in the neighborhood directly to the east of the Bryant neighborhood. This project aims to help scale up access to clean and renewable energy sources for heating and cooling.

As you know, the City of Ann Arbor aims to decarbonize the entire community by 2030 equitably. AAPS commits to sustainability efforts, such as deploying solar systems, building-scale geothermal and EV chargers, and adopting electric vehicles in our fleet. However, we are struggling with ways to efficiently and effectively transition our heating and cooling operations to sustainable sources that benefit the surrounding neighborhoods. That's why we are excited about this project, as it will not only help reduce the climate pollution associated with heating and cooling at our Bryant Elementary School but also benefit the surrounding neighborhoods.

We are thrilled to be part of this project, and we will use our elementary school as a meeting space to engage with residents about district geothermal and explore what geothermal looks like in practice. As a result, Ann Arbor Public Schools is fully supportive of this work, ready to collaborate in any way possible, and an ally in our shared efforts to make Ann Arbor one of the most sustainable and equitable communities in America.

Therefore, we are delighted to support the City's application to the CPRG program. Please let me know if you have questions about our support for this project or AAPS's role in ensuring successful project implementation.

Sincerely,

Bernerd Rice
Assistant Superintendent Capital Program & Physical Properties
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