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Springdale, Arkansas 72762
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March 27, 2024

Shane Khoury, Cabinet Secretary
Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants – Implementation Grants Letter of Support

Secretary Khoury:

The Northwest Arkansas Council is pleased to offer a letter of support regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Implementation Grant General Competition coalition application in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Environment Quality. Founded in 1990, the Northwest Arkansas Council is a nonprofit organization with more than 100 business members that works to advance economic vitality, infrastructure and quality of life in one of the nation's fastest-growing metropolitan areas.

The projects outlined in the application are critical for the energy diversification necessary to support the State's energy approach. We support the proposal to fund heavy-duty hydrogen fueling and electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Arkansas and Oklahoma and to offer incentives to mitigate the cost differential between diesel and zero-tailpipe-emission trucks. The Highway 412 Hydrogen Corridor Connector proposal is a strategic use and efficient use of CPRG dollars that will connect major manufacturing, shipping, and logistics organizations in Northwest Arkansas that are interested in transitioning their fleets to planned hydrogen and electric vehicle corridors along Interstate 44 and Interstate 40 in Oklahoma. The proposal will enable the states to support further build-out of hydrogen fueling and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

We appreciate your leadership and dedication to advancing energy innovation in our State that enhances energy security, reduces emissions of air pollutants, and supports shared goals for a sustainable and prosperous future. We are eager to support this and ongoing efforts to ensure clean, reliable transportation solutions.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Peacock". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops.

Nelson Peacock
President and CEO
Northwest Arkansas Council

