



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 Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas (State Chamber/AIA) is pleased to offer this letter of support for your US Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Implementation Grant General Competition coalition application with the Oklahoma Department of Environment Quality. Among the State Chamber/AIA's highest priorities are the economic health of Arkansas businesses and the economic development of our state—goals that are well-aligned with this proposal.

The State Chamber/AIA believes that the projects outlined therein are critical for the energy diversification necessary to support Arkansas's "all the above" energy approach. We strongly 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 implementation dollars that will connect major manufacturing, shipping, and logistics organizations in Northwest Arkansas interested in transitioning their fleets to planned hydrogen and electric vehicle corridors along Interstate 44 and 40 in Oklahoma. The proposal will also enable the states to further support the build-out of hydrogen fueling and electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout Arkansas and Oklahoma.

We appreciate your leadership and dedication to advancing energy innovation in our state that enhances our 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 that benefit our region and the entire country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Zook', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Randy Zook
President and CEO
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce
Associated Industries of Arkansas