



March 11, 2024

Secretary Shane Khoury
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 Advanced Energy Association (AAEA) is proud to extend its full support for the State of Arkansas's application for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG), also known as the Arkansas Energy & Environment Innovation Plan. As a leading advocate for advanced energy development in Arkansas, AAEA is committed to fostering energy innovation, promoting advanced energy technologies, and contributing to economic growth through advanced energy initiatives.

Our organization represents a dynamic community of businesses and professionals dedicated to making energy supply in Arkansas and beyond more secure, clean, and affordable. We are at the forefront of advocating for initiatives that support the expanded utilization of advanced energy technologies, including solar, wind, hydro, nuclear, electric vehicles, alternative fuels, and smart grid technologies. Our membership spans a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including manufacturers, energy providers, entrepreneurs, small business owners, educators, researchers, and public institutions, all united in the goal of economic expansion and job creation in this industry.

The proposed project to install three hydrogen heavy-duty truck fueling stations along with several electric vehicle (EV) stations in strategic locations in Arkansas and Oklahoma is a visionary step towards reducing emissions from the transportation sector and advancing the transition to zero-tailpipe-emission vehicles. By strategically situating hydrogen stations geographically, this initiative not only supports the adoption of cleaner transportation options but also enhances the infrastructure necessary for a sustainable energy future. The Interstate 40 and Highway 412 Hydrogen Corridor Connector, as part of this proposal, represents a strategic and efficient use of CPRG implementation dollars. It promises to connect major manufacturing, shipping, and logistics organizations across Arkansas and Oklahoma, facilitating their transition to hydrogen and electric vehicle corridors along Interstate 44 and 40. This initiative aligns perfectly with AAEA's goals of promoting advanced energy technologies and supporting energy innovation and collaboration within the region.

AAEA appreciates the leadership and dedication demonstrated by the State of Arkansas in advancing energy innovation that not only enhances our energy security but also reduces emissions of harmful air pollutants. We are committed to supporting this proposal and ongoing efforts to ensure the availability of clean, reliable transportation solutions that benefit not just our region but the entire country. We believe this project is critical for kickstarting the transition of heavy-duty diesel fleets to zero-tailpipe-emissions technologies in our region, and we look forward to contributing to its success.

Best,

Lauren Waldrip
Executive Director, Arkansas Advanced Energy Association