



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
LANSING



PHILLIP D. ROOS  
DIRECTOR

March 29, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Whitney Gravelle  
President  
Bay Mills Indian Community  
12140 W. Lakeshore Drive  
Brimley, Michigan 49715

Dear President Gravelle:

The Office of Climate and Energy (OCE) within the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) fully supports the application of the Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC) for funding through the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation program. As we understand it, the BMIC plans to submit its proposed project for both the general and tribal CPRG competitions. Our support for the application extends to both rounds of funding.

The BMIC requests CPRG funding to install an 11 MW solar farm and 5 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS) on 40 acres of tribal trust land in the Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP) of Michigan. The project site is directly adjacent to the headquarters of Cloverland Electric Cooperative, which provides power to much of the EUP, and directly across Interstate-75 from Cloverland's substation connection to regional transmission lines. A low-income and disadvantaged community (LIDAC) by the definitions in the CPRG funding notice, the BMIC will contribute significantly to the first two measures in the State of Michigan Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) by implementing this project.

- **Measure #1 - Drive clean energy deployment including improving siting for renewable energy and energy storage across Michigan...emphasizing equitable access for Michigan's LIDACs.** Achieving the State of Michigan's 50% by 2030 renewable energy goal, which is now a legal standard thanks to policy reforms signed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer last year, will require a 200% increase in renewable energy generation in the state this decade. Projects like those the BMIC proposes will catalyze the rapid scaling up of solar energy deployment that we need to meet that ambitious target, most importantly by demonstrating that a major renewable energy installation can be seamlessly sited in a rural area and generate significant community benefits.
- **Measure #2 - Invest in energy storage to...better integrate renewable energy into the electric grid.** With the target of adding 1,050 MW of storage per year this decade, the State of Michigan PCAP places a strong emphasis on battery storage as an enabler and prerequisite for integrating renewable energy

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sources into our electric grid at the scale necessary to achieve our decarbonization goals and maintain our energy security. In addition to its alignment with this priority measure, BMIC's thoughtful proposal will contribute to Michigan's new 2,500 MW energy storage standard – one of the few such standards in the nation – that state policymakers adopted last year.

EGLE and the OCE look forward to supporting and promoting this project any way we can, including considering a request from the BMIC – should it make one – for assistance from the Michigan Competitiveness Fund, which state leaders established to support important public projects like this one. EGLE acknowledges the EPA's intention to not fund the same measure in the same location and commits to ensuring projects funded under BMIC's application would not receive additional funding under any successful CPRG implementation grants the State of Michigan is a part of.

Again, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's Office of Climate and Energy is excited to support this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory Connolly', is positioned above the printed name.

Cory Connolly  
Chief Climate Officer  
Office of Climate and Energy  
517-881-8972

cc: Phillip D. Roos, Director, EGLE  
James Clift, Deputy Director, EGLE  
Julia Field, Deputy Climate and Energy Advisor, EGLE  
Katie Kruse, Environmental Justice and Tribal Liaison, EGLE