



March 26, 2024

Roy Hesemann, Utilities Director
City of Cedar Rapids – Utilities Department
1111 Shaver Rd NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Re: City of Hiawatha Letter of Support- **Accelerating Methane Capture and Renewable Natural Gas Adoption at Wastewater Facilities in Eastern Iowa**

Dear Roy,

City of Hiawatha is pleased to provide this Letter of Support to the City of Cedar Rapids in responding to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition*. Cedar Rapids is requesting a federal grant award of \$125,001,625 to support the **Accelerating Methane Capture and Renewable Natural Gas Adoption at Wastewater Facilities in Eastern Iowa**, which proposes the integration of anaerobic biodigester systems at both the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City wastewater treatment facilities to capture methane from biogas production. Captured methane will be cleaned and injected into the natural gas grid as renewable natural gas (RNG), which will reduce reliance on non-renewable natural gas to support the activities of industries, businesses and households within the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City communities and surrounding region. In addition, both cities plan to transport industrial waste to the wastewater treatment plants to increase biogas production, which provides an opportunity to increase RNG production and reduce additional methane gas generation by diverting waste from landfills.

City of Hiawatha firmly believes this initiative will advance the U.S. EPA's mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as methane, carbon dioxide, and nitrous oxide, and anticipate the proposed projects will bring meaningful public health benefits to the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City communities.

City of Hiawatha looks forward to providing long-term support for the proposed projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Dodson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Dodson, Mayor
City of Hiawatha