



In every deliberation we must consider the impact on the seventh generation.  
-Great Law of the Iroquois

March 25, 2024

Commissioner Angela Tovar  
City of Chicago Department of Environment  
Via Electronic Mail

Dear Commissioner Tovar,

I am writing to provide Seven Generations Ahead's (SGA) Letter of Commitment for the City of Chicago's proposal to the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. SGA supports the proposed application for funding for the City of Chicago and Cook County under the 2024 EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Strategy Program to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG). SGA is excited to be part of a coalition that seeks to bring \$199,999,999 of federal funding over 5 years in direct funding for personnel and implementation of measures including Building Energy Efficiency; Industrial Decarbonization; and Waste, Water and Materials Management. EPA has set a goal of 40% of these dollars invested and impacting economically disadvantaged communities and residents.

Seven Generations Ahead (SGA) is a 22 year old sustainable communities non-profit serving the Chicago metro area and state of Illinois with a focus on driving solutions related to climate, equity and sustainability. SGA has operated in the clean energy, waste reduction and sustainability space within the City of Chicago, Cook County and broader metro area for years, and among other initiatives catalyzed the founding of the state-wide Illinois Food Scrap and Composting Coalition; developed in 2008 and implements the region's longest standing Zero Waste Schools program; co-founded the Chicago Public Schools' CPS Zero Waste initiative; and co-founded and co-leads the Cross Community Climate Collaborative (C4) with three area mayors and the Urban Efficiency Group, which focuses on working within disadvantaged communities in Cook County, IL on energy efficiency, local solar and renewable energy development, EV infrastructure, workforce development and community education and engagement to achieve the equitable transition to a clean energy economy across sectors.

Communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities experience the burden of high energy costs, have been overburdened by contaminants, waste, and toxic sites and have historically been excluded from economic opportunities. The proposed Chicago – Cook County EPA CPRG project is an opportunity for the region to address these inequities, reduce pollution and GHG emissions in our

communities and provide workforce training for economically disadvantaged youth and adults. Our organization will work on outreach, workforce recruitment and to hold the CPRG project accountable to Justice40 goals. We will also commit to regular meetings with other partners and the City of Chicago and Cook County.

Please contact me if you need any additional information or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Cuneen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being more prominent than the last name "Cuneen".

Gary Cuneen, Founder and Executive Director, Seven Generations Ahead