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BUREAU OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Xochitl Flores**

BUREAU CHIEF

69 W. Washington St., Suite 2900 • Chicago, Illinois 60602 • (312) 603-1000

March 20, 2024

Angela Tovar

Commissioner, City of Chicago Department of Environment

Via Electronic Mail

Dear Commissioner Tovar,

The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development (BED) enthusiastically supports the Coalition application from the City of Chicago and County of Cook for \$199 million for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development's (BED) mission is to enhance the quality of life for Cook County residents through transformative and equitable community and economic development. The Bureau prioritizes sectors that offer relatively low barriers to entry, good jobs with career pathways and play a globally relevant part of the regional economy. With a deep commitment to collaboration, Cook County plays a leadership role in multiple initiatives, which include manufacturing and solar sector partnerships, initiatives to promote innovation, industrial resiliency and supply chain diversification, and programs to support manufacturing and clean energy career pathways.

The Chicago/Cook County CRPG Coalition Proposal advances highly effective Greenhouse Gas reduction strategies coupled with strong Environmental Justice benefits. The proposal will assist smaller and medium sized businesses install energy efficient equipment while reducing toxins and air pollution in Environmental Justice areas. The program will also address food waste in Chicago and Cook County through creation of food scrap collection programs and supporting infrastructure. In addition, the CRPG coalition it will advocate for energy efficiency, electrification and renewable energy strategies and investments in public buildings such as schools, libraries, and public housing in historically excluded communities to reduce air pollution, provide jobs, and create educational working models for aggressively addressing climate change.

This proposal, if funded, will significantly reduce the region's GHG emissions and catalyze economic opportunities. We look forward to working closely to support this effort. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further assistance or information.

Sincerely,

Xochitl Flores