



Ian M. Hughes  
Director, Environmental Sustainability

RUSH University Medical Center  
1620 West Harrison Street  
Chicago, IL 60612

Tel 312.942.9089  
Ian\_M\_Hughes@rush.edu  
www.rush.edu

March 25, 2024

Angela Tovar

Commissioner, City of Chicago Department of Environment

Via Electronic Mail

Dear Commissioner Tovar,

RUSH University Medical Center supports the Coalition application from the City of Chicago and County of Cook for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. As an Anchor Institution, RUSH has a longstanding history of leveraging our economic power to bring systemic change to the West Side of Chicago as we strive to address the life expectancy and wage gaps that exist in these communities. We are building upon our social determinants of health work to also consider environmental and climate implications on human health, while also directly addressing our footprint with the expansion of our Environmental Sustainability Team. We support this application because it directly aligns with our organizational mission to improve community and human health, as well as our environmental sustainability work that supports it.

The Chicago/Cook County CRPG Coalition Proposal advances highly effective Greenhouse Gas reduction strategies that also have strong Environmental Justice benefits. Measures include an Industrial Decarbonization component (for Chicago, Suburban Cook County, and DuPage County) to assist smaller and medium sized businesses, to install energy efficient and electrified equipment, renewable energy, and refrigerant replacement systems, while reducing toxics 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 the infrastructure to support them. And it will pursue aggressive energy efficiency, electrification and renewable energy strategies in public buildings such as schools, libraries and public housing in low income and distressed communities to reduce air pollution, provide jobs, and create educational working models for aggressively addressing climate change.

The proposal shared by the project team to drastically reduce our GHG emissions and catalyze economic opportunities within the clean energy economy is critical for the Chicago region and we look forward to working closely to support this effort. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further assistance or information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ian Hughes'.

Ian M. Hughes  
Director, Environmental Sustainability  
RUSH University Medical Center