

March 26, 2024

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

Dear Commissioner Tovar,

Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) supports the Coalition application from the City of Chicago and County of Cook for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant of \$199,999,000. MPC is an independent planning organization working to address regional built environment issues through a racial and economic justice lens. Our goal is a thriving Chicago region for all residents, and we support this application as part of the City's strategy for a more sustainable region.

We support the Chicago/Cook County CRPG Coalition Proposal as it advances highly effective Greenhouse Gas reduction strategies that also have strong Environmental Justice benefits. There are measures, such as the Industrial Decarbonization component (for Chicago, Suburban Cook County, and DuPage County) that will 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. Additionally, this program will address food waste in Chicago and Cook County through the creation of food scrap collection programs and the infrastructure to support them. Lastly, it will pursue aggressive energy efficiency, electrification and renewable energy strategies in public buildings and community centers located in low income and distressed communities to reduce air pollution, provide jobs, and create educational working models for addressing climate change.

We are pleased with the proposal shared by the project team to drastically reduce our GHG emissions and catalyze economic opportunities within the clean energy economy. This initiative is critical for the Chicago region and we look forward to working closely to support the effort.

Sincerely,



Kendra J. Freeman
Vice President of Programs and Strategic Impact

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