



March 27, 2024

Alsip  
Beecher  
Blue Island  
Burnham  
Calumet City  
Calumet Park  
Chicago Heights  
Country Club Hills  
Crestwood  
Crete  
Dixmoor  
Dolton  
East Hazel Crest  
Flossmoor  
Ford Heights  
Glenwood  
Harvey  
Hazel Crest  
Homewood  
Lansing  
Lynwood  
Markham  
Matteson  
Midlothian  
Mokena  
Monee  
Oak Forest  
Olympia Fields  
Orland Hills  
Orland Park  
Park Forest  
Peotone  
Phoenix  
Posen  
Richton Park  
Riverdale  
Robbins  
Sauk Village  
South Chicago Heights  
South Holland  
Steger  
Thornton  
Tinley Park  
University Park  
Worth

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

Dear Commissioner Tovar,

I am writing to provide the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association's (SSMMA) Letter of Commitment as we support 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). My organization 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 so this initiative will directly benefit south suburban municipalities.

The SSMMA is a not for profit, council of government representing 39 municipalities with nearly 600,000 residents within Cook County. Of those members, 29 of the 39 member municipalities are federally recognized environmental justice communities; many are also majority minority communities.

As you are aware, communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities like those within the SSMMA region 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, developing municipal leadership, and workforce recruitment and to holding 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,

Kristi DeLaurentiis  
Executive Director  
South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association