



March 20, 2024

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

Dear Commissioner Tovar,

On behalf of Bright Beat I am writing to express my support for the City of Chicago and County of Cook application for just over \$199 Million for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

As Founder and President of Bright Beat, consultant to a number of municipalities in the Chicago Region, and as an advocate, collaborator, and leader of multiple stakeholder coalitions - including the Chicago Sustainability Task Force and Wasted Food Action Alliance - I strategize and develop climate action, education and engagement programs and promote the distribution and use of associated resources across sectors and communities. We support this application because the proposal elements precisely align with the objectives of Bright Beat and - in our opinion - the missions of our aligned organizations. It is both just and critical to provide relevant and empowering resources, informed by community input, to historically disinvested communities.

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. 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 proposed program will also address wasted food in Chicago and Cook County through creation of food waste prevention, food rescue, food scrap collection programs, and the infrastructure to support them. The need for these is profound, and the resulting impacts across the food system and supply chain will exceed the GHG emissions calculated today.

This proposal to drastically reduce our GHG emissions and catalyze economic opportunities within the clean energy economy is critical for the Chicago region. The project team that collaborated in formulating this comprehensive regional plan underscores their shared dedication to this cause. We eagerly anticipate working closely to support the realization of these objectives. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further assistance or information.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Katsaros
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