



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

JOHN J. KIM, DIRECTOR

March 28, 2024

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

Dear Commissioner Tovar,

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is glad to support the application from the City of Chicago and Cook County for \$199 million for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). As you know, the team from the Illinois EPA has been working collaboratively with our partners at the City of Chicago, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, and Metropolitan Mayors Caucus in the development of our Priority Climate Action Plans and CPRG implementation grant applications and believe that our respective applications provide a unique opportunity to provide significant environmental benefits to the State of Illinois.

The Chicago/Cook County CRPG Coalition proposal advances highly effective greenhouse gas reduction strategies that also have strong environmental justice (EJ) 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 EJ 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. The proposal also pursues 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 Chicago area 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John J. Kim", with a stylized, flowing script.

John J. Kim  
Director

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