



March 26, 2024

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

Dear Commissioner Tovar,

The Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network (CFBN) supports the Coalition application from the City of Chicago and County of Cook for \$199 million for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. CFBN leverages the power of the food & beverage industry in Chicagoland to grow the industry and the local economy. We bring industry players together, provide a forum for collaboration and support, and better connect the 4,500 companies in the industry across Chicagoland to drive innovation and growth in the region. We're an Industry Association with a higher purpose to address big issues like employment, economic development, entrepreneurship, and neighborhood revitalization. This grants supports the region, our industry, and the communities we serve.

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 especially the food & beverage industry -- and we look forward to working closely to support this effort. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further assistance or information.

Sincerely,

Alan Reed
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