



March 28th, 2024

U.S Environmental Protection Agency Office
of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund 1200
Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

RE: Letter of Commitment for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

To Whom It May Concern,

People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE) is committed to partnering with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and other partner organizations for the proposed five-year *Regional Mid-Stream Heat Pump Program*. This program will create mid-stream incentives at the distributor level to encourage the full replacement of HVAC and water heating systems across Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Since 2020 PACE has led the HeatSmartCT program in Connecticut. This community outreach and education program has run campaigns in communities across Connecticut and worked at the state level in support of installer training and qualification standards, data reporting, and resident education webinars. More information on this program may be found at our website: HeatSmartCT.org

PACE has worked alongside the Connecticut Energy Network to provide campaigns, educational materials, and webinars. We have supported partner organizations such as Operation Fuel and Clean Water Action in their community energy efficiency and heat pump campaigns. One tool that PACE has pioneered is focused marketing that allows specific outreach to different groups of residents based on their heating fuel, heating system, age of dwelling, and distinguishing between owners and renters. The value proposition of heat pumps varies depending on these factors and tailored outreach is needed.

It is well established that cold climate heat pumps can provide significant economic and environmental benefits. But there are real barriers to widespread adoption of the technology. In



particular there is a gap in the workforce needs. As written, this grant would make major improvements in work force capacity. Furthermore, leveraging the distributor network can increase contractor adoption of technology and flow these benefits to customers. Training new workers and raising awareness in the installer network is critical to achieving widespread adoption.

As a community outreach nonprofit, we welcome the improvements in training, distributor capability, multistate collaboration, and community support that is embedded in this grant proposal. We further enthusiastically support the focused attention on disadvantaged and underserved communities.

PACE looks forward to working with DEEP and other partners in this grant proposal to support deployment and community engagement.

- We agree to provide input in public comments where needed, and participate fully in any advisory councils or working groups where the program is discussed.
- We agree to support the coalition partners in achieving meaningful involvement from community and labor groups when our expertise and networks may be helpful.

Should this funding request be successful, we look forward to working with you on this valuable project beginning in mid-2024. Please let us know how we may be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Bernard Pelletier

Bernard Pelletier

Vice President

People's Action for Clean Energy

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