



3-29-2024

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

Katherine Dykes, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford CT 06106-5127

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

Dear Commissioner Dykes:

The Efficiency Maine Trust (Efficiency Maine) is committed to partnering with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and other partner organizations for the proposed five-year *New England Heat Pump Accelerator*. This program will create mid-stream incentives to encourage the full replacement of HVAC and water heating systems across Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, and we enthusiastically support its approval.

Efficiency Maine's programs are at the forefront of the critically important national market transformation to beneficial electrification. Efficiency Maine has more than a decade of experience designing, administering, measuring and evaluating programs to promote the purchase and use of heat pumps and heat pump water heaters.

Our review of EPA ENERGY STAR® data suggests that Maine has the highest *per capita* uptake of heat pump water heaters in the country, thanks to a very effective mid-stream program that works closely with distributors and big box stores in our state. We believe this is a model that is scalable for the rest of the region and the country. And Efficiency Maine's recent success in reaching aggressive goals for air-source heat pumps have received national recognition from trade associations, think tanks and mainstream media.

Along with other states in the region, Efficiency Maine continues to "push the envelope" on scaling up the transition to high-performance heat pumps as a pathway to move homes and businesses off of high-carbon, imported fuel oil. To that end, our programs have shifted to a principal focus on whole-home heat pump solutions, which entails aggressive use of tiered incentives for different income brackets, plus a comprehensive education and training campaign to help contractors and consumers ensure that these solutions are well designed and implemented (installed and operated), plus piloting of new technologies

and applications that hold the prospect of improving heat pump performance in New England's cold climate and older housing stock. Funding from Connecticut's proposal would significantly enhance our budgets to ensure that every part of the supply chain is working in harmony to deliver quality, low-cost heat pumps to the region's consumers. This will ensure that our heat pump programs can reach more consumers, more quickly, to build momentum for the necessary transition to "beneficial electrification" from "early adopters" to the "majority" market.

We are aware that strong community partnerships and networks are needed to design and manage the proposed program to advance environmental and public health issues in the region. We are committed to helping in the implementation and success of the program. We agree to provide input in public comments where needed and participate fully in any working group or advisory councils joined by our members. We agree to support the coalition partners 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,



Michael D. Stoddard
Executive Director
Efficiency Maine Trust
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Augusta, ME 04330