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March 28, 2024

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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 CT 06106-5127

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

To Whom It May Concern,

Vital Communities 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*. The Accelerator will use a three-pronged strategy designed to activate the supply chain, scale solutions to the specific barriers that low- and moderate-income (LMI) households and disadvantaged communities face in adopting heat pumps, and share data and educational resources across the region.

Vital Communities is a regional non-profit working with communities in the Upper Valley region of the Connecticut River, including 34 communities in New Hampshire. We have long-standing relationships with town energy committees and other community groups working on climate, energy, and energy burden issues. We have supported such groups with energy fairs, weatherize campaigns, and other community-based efforts over the past decade and are deepening our engagement in efforts that work to make the transition to clean energy and transportation solutions in the region more accessible and equitable.

Efficient cold-climate heat pumps can reduce energy costs and offer substantial emissions and health benefits for New England residents. We especially support this proposal for the Innovation Hub, which will dedicate significant funding to overcome barriers for LMI households and disadvantaged communities in all five states in the coalition. The projects funded under the Innovation Hub will tackle electrification challenges for unique buildings, such as mobile homes and multifamily buildings, develop community-based solutions to improve access and affordability, and provide resources to cover gaps in current programs, enabling them to offer heat pump upgrades as part of their package of services.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sarah Jackson
Randolph Center, VT

Vital Communities will look for ways to engage with the Accelerator to achieve the goals of the program and help to identify pathways for Innovation Hub projects. This can include participating in working group meetings, providing input or feedback, or other forms of engagement that may come about as the project is designed and implemented.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Jackson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Jackson

Executive Director