



March 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,

New Hampshire Housing is committed to partnering with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and other partner organizations for the proposed *New England Heat Pump Accelerator* program. This five-year 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.

NH Housing is a self-supporting public corporation that promotes, finances, and supports housing solutions for the people of New Hampshire. We operate rental and homeownership programs designed to assist low- and moderate-income persons with obtaining affordable housing. We have helped more than 55,000 families purchase their own homes and been instrumental in financing the creation of more than 16,000 multifamily housing units. The vast majority of these housing units are available only to low-income tenants.

NH Housing has extensive experience in weatherizing and retrofitting multifamily buildings to make them more energy efficient. In 2010, we established a Greener Homes Program to provide energy audits and retrofits for multifamily housing. Over the course of three years, we completed energy audits for 1,277 units in 41 projects around the state; completed energy retrofits for 981 units in 27 projects; created annual energy savings of 5,514 MMBTU's; reduced carbon emissions by 1,883 metric tons annually; reduced annual operating costs for the 27 projects; reduced electricity consumption on average by 35%; and reduced heating material consumption on average by 33%.

NH Housing is now embarking on a new initiative to benchmark the energy performance of affordable multifamily properties, and to assist multifamily property owners in finding federal and state incentives to fund energy retrofits. We also have established stringent energy efficiency requirements for new multifamily properties financed with federal tax credits awarded by NH Housing, and we have joined the NH Department of Energy in requesting \$69 million of EPA's Solar for All funding to bring the benefits of renewable energy to low-income households.

Efficient cold-climate heat pumps can reduce energy costs and offer substantial emissions and health improvements for New England residents. Because of this, many states, including New Hampshire, have prioritized the installation of heat pumps through state policy and energy efficiency rebates. At the same time, there is a gap in the workforce needs. Leveraging the distributor network can increase contractor adoption of heat-pump technology and bring these benefits to customers.

NH Housing is 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. Because of our experience in benchmarking and retrofitting multifamily buildings to reduce energy consumption, we are well-positioned to support the design and implementation of the program, including connecting the benefits of the program to low-income and disadvantaged communities. Therefore, NH Housing agrees to work in our region to support deployment and community engagement of the program.

- 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,



Rob Dapice
CEO/Executive Director