



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

March 26, 2024

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127

RE: Letter of Commitment for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Regional
Mid-Stream Heat Pump Program

To Whom It May Concern,

I write in support of the application submitted by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and other partner organizations for funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. The proposed five-year Regional Mid-Stream Heat Pump 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.

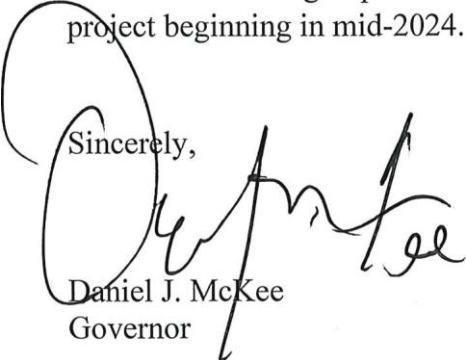
In 2012, the Rhode Island General Assembly enacted the Act on Climate, which mandates economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals leading the state to net-zero emissions by 2050. An important tool to help the state reach this goal is building decarbonization, and heat pumps are a critical component of this effort. Efficient cold-climate heat pumps can reduce energy costs and offer substantial emissions and health improvements for New England residents. Rhode Island launched a statewide incentive program, Clean Heat RI, in September 2023. This program offers incentives for the installation of high efficiency heat pumps for households, small to mid-sized businesses, and non-profits. As of February 29, 2024, a total of 896 incentives had been issued, totaling \$2.83 million. At the same time, there is a gap in the workforce needs. Leveraging the distributor network can increase contractor adoption of technology and flow these benefits to customers.

Rhode Island 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 and is committed to helping in the implementation and success of the program. Further, the State will support coalition partners when our expertise and networks may be helpful.

Should this funding request be successful, I look forward to working with you on this valuable project beginning in mid-2024.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKee
Governor

•ect beginning in mid-2024. Thank you for your consideration.

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