



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
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04333-0001

March 28, 2024

Administrator Michael S. Regan
Office of the Administrator, 1101A
Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: New England Heat Pump Accelerator

Dear Administrator Regan,

I am writing to you to express my support for the *New England Heat Pump Accelerator* application to the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition.

Last July, I announced that Maine had – two years ahead of schedule – surpassed our goal of installing 100,000 new high efficiency air source heat pumps by 2025, a milestone that represents significant progress in reducing Maine's reliance on heating oil, lowering heating costs, and curbing harmful carbon emissions. At the same time, I unveiled a new target: installing an additional 175,000 heat pumps in Maine by 2027, thereby bringing the number of heat pumps installed in Maine homes, businesses, and public buildings during my time in office to 275,000. If this target is achieved, Maine would have more than 320,000 heat pumps in total installed across the state.

As a large rural state that is the most home heating oil reliant state in the country, Maine does face unique barriers to meeting our ambitious heat pump deployment goals. While our success in installing heat pumps has earned wide recognition for how the high-efficiency heating and cooling technology works well and can be a solution for homes and businesses across the country, continued innovation, engagement with our workforce systems, and new incentives are necessary to drive continued progress.

Data from our energy efficiency program administrator, Efficiency Maine Trust, show that single heat pumps have broad adoption in rural and northern Maine, which underscores that this technology works in cold climates and that the economic benefits of the program are reaching every corner of our vast state, more work need to be done to advance whole home systems. We are piloting specific initiatives to deploy



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heat pumps in mobile homes in Maine and hope to expand deployment in multi-family housing. This multi-state approach would help Maine achieve our bold goals.

Our transition to heat pumps is creating good-paying jobs, curbing our reliance on fossil fuels, and cutting costs for Maine families, all while making them more comfortable in their homes – Maine is setting an example for the nation. With our new and ambitious goal, we will continue to lead the way when it comes to embracing efficient, climate-friendly technologies that strengthen our economy, protect our environment, and at the same time save people money.

The *New England Heat Pump Accelerator* application to the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program would leverage the power of the regional market to drive increased adoption of efficient heat pumps and heat pump water heaters. I encourage you to support this multi-state approach to transform the regional market for heat pumps.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills, Governor
State of Maine



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