



Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

March 26, 2024

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, Connecticut 06106

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

To Whom It May Concern,

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) is pleased to support the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and other New England entities for the proposed five-year *New England Heat Pump Accelerator*. This 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.

UVLSRPC has long acknowledged the potential for HVAC and water heating systems to increase energy efficiency and emission reductions. UVLSRPC's Regional Plan (2015) highlights the expansion of available fuel types for heating fuels as a key regional goal. The Regional Plan notes that new technologies, such as ground source or air source heat pumps, can be both financially and environmentally sustainable for community members. UVLSRPC's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (2023) similarly identifies electric heat pumps and ground source systems as effective methods to cool homes without increasing greenhouse gas emissions. As UVLSRPC continues to work with energy partners throughout the region, such as municipal energy committees and the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup, we consequently encourage measures that increase the efficiency of HVAC and water heating systems.

Likewise, 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 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 technology and flow these benefits to customers.

This initiative is very important to the New England region and the nation in achieving our emission goals. We hope that you will give this project priority consideration for funding, and look

forward to the opportunity to work with CT DEEP and other project partners to make this project a success to serve our region while offering a model for others to follow.

Sincerely,

Meghan Butts

Executive Director

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

603-448-1680 mbutts@uvlsrpc.org