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March 28, 2024

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

Re: Letter of Commitment for EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, New England Heat Pump Accelerator

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express the support of The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire (TNC NH) for the New England Heat Pump Aggregator proposal. We stand ready to work with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and other partner organizations to implement the proposed five-year Accelerator. We believe that this initiative will help the region achieve important goals through strategies 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. This work is greatly needed in New Hampshire.

Efficient cold-climate heat pumps can reduce energy costs and offer substantial emissions and health benefits for New England residents, yet in states like New Hampshire we have a long way to go to bring these benefits to residents. We particularly support the proposed Innovation Hub, which will dedicate funding to overcome barriers for LMI households and disadvantaged communities in all five states in the coalition – helping to 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.

As an organization increasingly focused on mitigating and adapting to climate change, TNC NH welcomes the opportunity to engage with the Accelerator to achieve the goals of the program and to identify pathways for Innovation Hub projects in New Hampshire. Should this funding request be successful, we look forward to collaborating with you as soon as funding is available. Thank you for pursuing this important opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Hatfield".

Meredith A. Hatfield
Associate Director for Policy & Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy NH

cc: U.S Environmental Protection Agency, Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund