



BRPC
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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Executive Director

March 21, 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 Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) is committed to partnering with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and other partner organizations for the proposed five-year *Regional Mid-Stream Heat Pump Program*. 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.

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.

We are 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. We are committed to prioritizing all disadvantaged and underserved communities within urban, rural and tribal communities.

BRPC is one of thirteen Massachusetts regional planning agencies, which are public organizations that encompass a multi-jurisdictional regional community. BRPC seeks to enhance the regional resilience and quality of life in the Berkshires region of Massachusetts through a variety of initiatives and projects encompassing land use, transportation, economic development, environmental management, sustainable communities and public health. BRPC has been actively collaborating with 32 rural and urban communities since 1966 to deal with the regional challenges, opportunities and assets.

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berkshireplanning.org TTY: 771 or 1(800) 439-2370

BRPC's agrees to work in our regions to support deployment and community engagement.

- To provide input in public comments where needed, and participate fully in any advisory councils or working groups where the program is discussed.
- 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas Matuszko".

Thomas Matuszko, AICP
Executive Director