



February 29, 2024

Subject: Letter of Support for the Denver Regional County of Governments' Decarbonize DRCOG Proposal for the U.S Environmental Protection Agencies' Community Pollution Reduction Grant Application

Dear Selection Committee,

BEI was founded to equip cities and communities with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to co-create ambitious and equitable building electrification strategies. BEI provides cities and their partners with critical research and advisory support to co-create and implement ambitious building electrification policies and programs. BEI also collaborates with partners to swiftly translate best practices from local initiatives to the state, regional, and federal levels.

BEI has partnered with the cities of Boulder and Denver since 2019, and we would like to express support for the Denver Regional Council of Governments' (DRCOG) Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) for the U.S EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

We strongly support the "Decarbonize DRCOG" program approach that the Front Range Electrification Network (FREN) has proposed in the PCAP, and is seeking implementation funding for under the CPRG. Based on nearly five years of experience working in the region, BEI strongly believes that a regional retrofit program model is necessary to accelerate building electrification by providing a one-stop shop for technical assistance to building owners and tenants, coordinating contractor engagement and workforce development, and braiding existing funding sources to support holistic retrofits for low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC). This approach will help ensure that low-income households, who often face the greatest barriers to accessing affordable energy upgrades, have the dedicated support they need to decarbonize their homes, and that members of LIDACs can participate in electrification careers.

If funded, this program can provide DRCOG and FREN staff the resources needed to foster a community co-creation process to incorporate community needs into the program, especially for those in LIDAC neighborhoods that stand to benefit the most from safer, healthier, and more efficient homes. This regional model will demonstrate best practices for equitable building electrification that BEI can elevate to its member cities for advancing social and economic justice and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jenna Tatum', is positioned above the printed name.

Jenna Tatum
Executive Director
Building Electrification Institute