



March 14, 2024

Denver Regional Council of Governments
1001 17th Street, Suite 700
Denver, CO 80202

RE: Letter of Commitment for Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant (CPRG) –
Decarbonize DRCOG

We believe that the Decarbonize DRCOG initiative is a strategic, impactful, and replicable approach to building decarbonization that advances the Biden Administration's Justice40 initiative and addresses a critical need for our region. This application aligns directly with the mission of the City of Denver's office of Climate Action Sustainability and Resiliency (CASR) —to cut carbon pollution, and build a sustainable and resilient Denver for all. It will also provide significant benefits to our local air quality, a desperately needed investment as we are in severe noncompliance with federal ozone standards and are now also out of compliance with the new PM 2.5 health-based standard. As such we give our wholehearted support to the implementation of this program.

CASR has been deeply involved in the development of this application and foresees that this grant and Decarbonize DRCOG will rapidly expand decarbonization strategies Denver currently pursues such as workforce development, rebates, and policies to reduce greenhouse gasses and provide cleaner air. Through the implementation of our own building decarbonization programs, we have identified that transformational change is needed in both customer acceptance and demand for decarbonization products as well as industry and workforce ability and preparedness to rapidly expand high quality installations. If awarded, Denver will use our combined expertise, resources, learnings, and momentum to help launch Decarbonize DRCOG and see it through completion.

Submittal of this letter signifies our commitment to the following actions through the duration of the grant and any subsequent programming:

- Participation on the program's Advisory Board, contributing to co-creation, collaboration, and informed decision-making
- Contribution of staff time from current program administrators with knowledge and experience running decarbonization and workforce programs
- Participation in evaluation mechanisms to document outcomes, evaluate success and share stories

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- Networking and technical resources to support other local governments as they align policy, programs, and funding with building decarbonization efforts
- Leveraging our existing strong relationships with trade and industry partners to bolster Decarbonize DRCOG's speed and reach of impact
- Support for including measures within participating communities to ensure alignment with Justice40, environmental justice, and equity considerations, prioritizing the needs of disproportionately impacted communities and populations
- Coordinated engagement with community stakeholders through public outreach, education campaigns, and working groups
- Collaboration with community organizations, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders to address systemic barriers and promote equitable access to program benefits and opportunities

More specifically, the CASR is committed to providing direct resources to the implementation of Decarbonize DRCOG. CASR will be providing \$11 million and the equivalent of 2.2 FTE of in-kind staff time a year through the five-year duration of the grant. See the budget narrative and budget spreadsheet attached to DRCOG's application for additional details.

We are excited about the transformative potential of this initiative and look forward to working closely with DRCOG and other stakeholders to advance our collective climate mitigation efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Babcock".

Elizabeth Babcock
Executive Director
Office of Climate Action Sustainability and Resiliency
City and County of Denver