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

RE: Letter of Support for Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant (CPRG) - Decarbonize DRCOG Proposal

As Mayor of the Mile High City, heart of the Denver Metropolitan area, I am writing to express my support for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation grant proposal submitted by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). The Decarbonize DRCOG proposal envisions a transformative and holistic approach to regional building decarbonization, and it strongly resonates with a commitment to advancing equitable climate solutions for our communities.

During last year's campaign, I made the promise to prioritize climate action and workforce development. I stand by that conviction every day of my administration. Denver is committed to eliminating greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. As our city's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, the built environment must be at the core of that effort. But Denver will not be able to reach our climate goals unless we solve for regional challenges like local workforce shortages and industry development. Decarbonize DRCOG invests millions into ensuring Denverites get the training they need for the quality jobs they want – and then endeavors to make Denver the best place to start and grow a new business in the rapidly changing building decarbonization ecosystem. To realize this transformation, however, we must ensure members of all our neighboring jurisdictions are able to be part of the clean energy economy, not just those who happen to live and work in communities lucky enough to have voter created climate tax funds.

Decarbonize DRCOG takes a comprehensive approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through building efficiency and electrification and ensures accessibility across various jurisdictions. In addition to significant greenhouse gas emission reductions, this grant will boost our local economy, helping businesses capitalize on new opportunities, investing in our small businesses and helping them grow, spurring economic growth and job creation by supporting new industries, and developing training programs to prepare workers. This proposal ensures communities, particularly low-income and disadvantaged communities, have a seat at the table, help define solutions, and benefit from their implementation in direct alignment with the Biden Administration's Justice 40 principles. In addition, we will gain substantial public health co-benefits through the simultaneous reduction of criteria pollutants, an issue of local importance given Denver's noncompliance with federal ozone and PM 2.5 standards.

This proposal is comprehensive and transformative, and Denver is at the ready to contribute our own staff time and resources to support and scale this endeavor. We look forward to the work to come.

Sincerely,



Mike Johnston  
Mayor