



March 26, 2024

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

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

The American Institute of Architects recognizes the importance of reducing building carbon emissions to combat climate change. AIA Colorado supports the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) project proposal presented by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). The "Decarbonize DRCOG" initiative encompasses a transformative and holistic approach to regional building decarbonization,

With building operations and the construction industry responsible for 40% of global annual CO2 emissions (per [architecture2030.org](https://www.architecture2030.org)), it's critical that we work toward net-zero buildings being standard while supporting regular adoption of more stringent energy codes and promoting building electrification. Decisions made during design determine a building's energy efficiency for decades at minimum and often its entire lifespan.

The architecture profession is at the forefront of building decarbonization since it directly affects the way we work. AIA Colorado and our 2,600 members can support the DRCOG in implementing building decarbonization and electrification efforts in several ways:

**Preparing the architecture profession to implement decarbonization measures**

We regularly offer educational programming to our membership on subjects related to building energy performance. Topics include energy code classes, support for firms who make the AIA 2030 Commitment to achieve net-zero energy buildings, and tours with presentations on high performance buildings being designed and built in Colorado.

Creating regional decarbonization standards makes it easier for architects, other design professionals, construction professionals, trades, and local governments to collectively prepare for changes necessary to achieve building decarbonization in a methodical fashion.

**Leveraging expertise of architects already at the forefront of decarbonization efforts**

Architects in Colorado already design high performance and even net-zero homes and commercial buildings in accordance with numerous standards and rating systems. Our members have designed fully electric schools, carbon positive hotels, and more.

AIA Colorado supports and promotes statewide policies that reduce building carbon emissions and maintains a Committee on the Environment with local experts that can be of assistance to regional efforts. Our members are also active in AIA National's numerous committees that collectively work to combat climate change.



The CPRG project proposal is comprehensive and transformative. It not only targets equitable building electrification but also ensures a focus on Justice40 principles, prioritizing benefits for low-income and disadvantaged communities and will help bring our entire region along in advancing our climate justice and greenhouse gas reduction goals. The architecture profession is proud to support these efforts that benefit communities in Colorado.

AIA Colorado looks forward to contributing our expertise, tools, and resources to support the success of this groundbreaking initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikolaus Remus".

Nikolaus Remus, AIA  
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