



## Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies

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March 8, 2024

RE: Chicagoland Renewable Natural Gas Coalition Letter of Support

Dear Selection Committee:

On behalf of the Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies (IAWA), we are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Chicagoland Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant application. The Chicagoland RNG project will capture biogas from publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities in the Chicago MSA, as well as additional landfill biogas, and convert it to renewable natural gas in a way that will significantly reduce cumulative GHG reductions by 2030 and beyond. The project will impact a region spanning 14 counties and three states with a solution that is scalable, replicable, and financially sustainable.

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant aims to invest in a cleaner economy that will spur innovation and economic growth while building more equitable, resilient communities. The Chicagoland RNG project exemplifies this mission by working collaboratively across multiple municipalities, states, and agencies to invest in innovative infrastructure that will turn literal waste into a renewable source of energy. Income generated from the sale of captured biogas has the potential to be reinvested for community benefit to provide cost-saving measures for low-income communities and finance additional GHG reduction strategies. The project is anticipated to significantly reduce GHG reductions in a densely populated region plagued by environmental justice issues that remains in non-attainment for National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and particulate matter.

The IAWA is an organization that represents over 95 years of transition and growth of the well-known and respected Illinois Association of Sanitary Districts. The organization is oriented to meet the needs of Administrators and Managers who are concerned with clean streams and are responsible for wastewater collection and treatment in the State of Illinois. The IAWA is comprised of roughly 60 agency members that provide the majority of wastewater treatment to the state of Illinois, as well as many affiliate members who serve supporting roles to the clean water industry. The IAWA provide a multitude of opportunities to exchange knowledge and experience within its association, as well as influence regulatory and legislative matters. We believe Chicagoland RNG project is an innovative and transformative solution that can replicated and scaled across our member region. This project aligns with our agency's goal of protecting public health while preserving the environment.

President

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Glenbard Wastewater Authority  
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**KEVIN BURKE III**

Springfield, Illinois

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Federal funding for the Chicagoland RNG project will advance the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2026 Strategic Plan's goal to combat the climate crisis by aggressively reducing emissions that contribute to climate change. In addition, the project will actively reduce air pollution that negatively impacts human health and the environment of more than 9.6 million residents in the nation's third-largest metropolitan region. This transformational project aligns with President Biden's Justice40 Initiative by ensuring that federal investments benefit vulnerable residents in the most disadvantaged communities across the nation.

For all these reasons and more, the IAWA supports the Chicagoland RNG project, and we highly encourage you to give the coalition's proposal your full consideration.  
Sincerely,

Matt Streicher, P.E., BCEE  
President, Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies