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HOUSE SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE

HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Subcommittee On Capital Markets

Subcommittee On Financial Institutions And Monetary Policy

Subcommittee On Digital Assets, Financial Technology, And Inclusion

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1306

March 22, 2024

RE: Chicagoland Renewable Natural Gas Coalition Letter of Support

I am writing to express my 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.

Central States Water Environment Association is a chapter of the national Water Environment Federation (WEF) organization that covers Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. They offer multiple opportunities for the exchange of water quality knowledge and experiences among our members and the public and to foster a greater awareness of water quality achievements and challenges. I believe Chicagoland RNG project is an innovative and transformative solution that can be replicated and scaled across our member region.

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, I support the Chicagoland RNG project, and encourage you to give the coalition's proposal your full and fair consideration in keeping with all existing rules and regulations. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my District Director, Laura Schock, and Laura.Schock@mail.house.gov or (202) 924-3453. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Congressman Sean Casten
U.S. House of Representatives
6th District, Illinois