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Executive Board Secretary

March 21, 2024

Dear CPRG Implementation Grant Selection Committee,

RE: Chicagoland Reverse Natural Gas Coalition Letter of Intent

On behalf of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, I am writing to express our support and commitment for the Chicagoland Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant application. The Chicagoland RNG initiative will capture biogas from publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities and landfill biogas and convert to renewable natural gas in a way that will significantly reduce cumulative GHG reductions by 2030 and beyond. The project is scalable, replicable, and financially sustainable. It will benefit our region spanning 14 counties and three states.

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 revenue. Income generated from the sale of captured biogas can then 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 in low income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC) that remain in non-attainment for National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and particulate matter.

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) is a non-profit regional council of governments representing 275 municipalities in northeastern Illinois. One-hundred eighty-one of our member municipalities have designated LIDAC census tracts in their jurisdiction. The Caucus is the lead agency for the Chicago MSA CPRG planning grant and the author of the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). This proposed project will implement our *Priority GHG Reduction Strategy #W1, "Capture biogas and convert to energy."* The Chicagoland Reverse Natural Gas Coalition (Coalition) actively participated in the development of the PCAP. This transformational project aligns with President Biden's Justice40 Initiative by ensuring that federal investment will benefit vulnerable residents in our region.

The Caucus intends to support community engagement for the Coalition through our regional Environment Committee and our regionally representative Executive Board. The Coalition will be invited to present information about the project to our leadership, local sustainability commissions, and to host onsite tours to demonstrate innovative reverse RNG technology to public officials and civic leaders.

To implement the referenced priority GHG reduction strategy and to realize broad economic, environmental, and public health benefits to communities the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus fully commits to the Chicagoland RNG Project and intends to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with Fox Metro Water Reclamation District (lead applicant) and other coalition members by July 1, 2024.

Sincerely,

Edith Makra
Director of Environmental Initiatives

City of Chicago · DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference · Lake County Municipal League · McHenry County Council of Governments
Metro West Council of Governments · Northwest Municipal Conference · South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Southwest Conference of Mayors · West Central Municipal Conference · Will County Governmental League

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