



**Vicinity Energy**

50 Louis St.NW

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Grand Rapids, MI 49503

telephone: 347.267.0557

March 28, 2024

Assistant City Manager Doug Matthews  
City of Grand Rapids  
300 Monroe Ave. NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Re: Vicinity Energy Letter of Support for the City of Grand Rapids CPRG Application

Dear Assistant City Manager Matthews,

I am writing on behalf of Vicinity Energy to express our enthusiastic support for the grant proposal for the City of Grand Rapids Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) regarding the Butterworth Landfill Solar-Powered Electricity Project. As a key stakeholder in the energy landscape of Grand Rapids, we believe that this project aligns perfectly with our shared goals of advancing environmental sustainability and reducing carbon emissions in our community.

Vicinity Energy owns and operates the district energy system in Grand Rapids, serving approximately 120 buildings in the downtown core, including residential buildings, hospitals, colleges/universities, municipal and commercial office buildings, the arena, convention center, hotels, churches, non-profits, restaurants, and retail facilities. Given that heating and cooling constitute a significant portion of a building's total carbon footprint, we recognize the potential for impactful change by implementing projects within our system.

Among the potential projects evaluated by Vicinity, the installation of an electric boiler at our Fulton Street plant powered by electricity generated from the Butterworth landfill solar field stands out as a transformative step towards decarbonization. This innovative approach to steam generation not only displaces the need for natural gas combustion but also demonstrates our commitment to utilizing renewable energy sources. The projected output from the Butterworth solar field has the potential to cover a significant portion of our annual steam consumption, contributing to emissions reductions and air pollution reduction in Grand Rapids.

Furthermore, we acknowledge the financial benefits associated with this project, including projected natural gas cost savings. These savings, combined with potential grant funding and incentives, will have a direct economic impact on the local community, preserving financial resources and supporting affordability initiatives.

We also commend the City of Grand Rapids for its commitment to innovative approaches in solar deployment, including solar-over-parking and behind-the-meter delivery to the City's Primary Circuit. The collaborative efforts between the City and solar developers to maximize the potential of the Butterworth Landfill site for solar generation are commendable and demonstrate forward-thinking strategies in environmental stewardship.

In conclusion, Vicinity Energy fully supports the grant proposal for the City of Grand Rapids Butterworth Landfill Solar-Powered Electricity Project. We believe that this project represents a significant step forward in our collective efforts to combat climate change, promote renewable energy adoption, and



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create a sustainable future for our community. We look forward to continued collaboration with the City of Grand Rapids and other stakeholders in bringing this project to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jesse Douglas".

Jesse Douglas, PE  
Vice President and General Manager  
Vicinity Energy Grand Rapids