



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

March 22, 2024

VIA EMAIL

John Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Dear John Weiss:

SUBJECT: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's Support of the Grand Valley Metro Council's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Implementation Grant General Competition Application (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

We, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), affirm our support of the Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC) in response to EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07. We are pleased to endorse the region's objective to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. Under GVMC's proposed project, the Low Income and Disadvantaged Community Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund (LIERF) and the West Michigan Solar Consortium (WMSC), the entity responsible for the LIERF, will be established.

The creation of the WMSC and the LIERF will reduce GHG emissions in the region, provide significant cost savings for communities in west Michigan, provide substantial community benefits in low-income and disadvantaged communities, and improve capacity and technical expertise through workforce development.

Through the CPRG Program period, we anticipate supporting the GVMC to establish the WMSC. The goals of the WMSC and LIERF align with the MI Healthy Climate Plan, Michigan's plan to reduce GHG emissions and transition toward economy-wide carbon neutrality by 2050. EGLE leads the implementation of the MI Healthy Climate Plan and numerous energy-related programs. We strongly support this proposal and are looking forward to working with the GVMC to see how the lessons learned from this program can help inform other initiatives across Michigan.

Given the GVMC's proven success in regional collaboration, we have confidence in their ability to achieve the objectives laid out in the application. Furthermore, this initiative will stimulate increased investment in renewable energy projects critical to achieving the West Michigan's Healthy Climate Plan objectives.

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We are enthusiastic about partnering with the GVMC to advance the goals of the West Michigan's Healthy Climate Plan and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through this pivotal program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cory Connolly', written in a cursive style.

Cory Connolly
Chief Climate Officer
Office of Climate and Energy
517-881-8972

cc: Phillip D. Roos, Director, EGLE
James Clift, Deputy Director, EGLE
Julia Field, EGLE