



Idaho Chapter Office
950 W. Bannock St.
Suite 210
Boise, ID 83702

Tel (208) 343-8826
Fax (208) 343-8892

nature.org

March 27, 2024

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 N. Hilton St.
Boise, ID 83706
Delivered via electronic mail

RE: Support for Idaho's Gem State Air Quality Initiative Implementation Grant Proposal

Dear Director Byrne:

The Nature Conservancy fully supports the State of Idaho's Gem State Air Quality Initiative implementation grant proposal. Our mission is to conserve the land and water upon which all life depends, which requires addressing climate change. With implementation funding for the Gem State Air Quality Initiative, Idaho can make transformative investments to reduce pollution, create jobs, and bolster economic activity. Idaho is poised to scale up impactful solutions across key sectors, including agriculture, forestry, dairies, and infrastructure.

Idaho's economy, communities, and history are inextricably linked to its abundant natural resources. The impacts of climate change, like drought, extreme heat, and increased severity of forest fire, pose real and serious threats to the State's economy and communities as documented in the 2021 *Idaho Climate-Economy Impacts Assessment* completed by the University of Idaho McClure Center for Public Policy Research. We are heartened to see the State of Idaho address this challenge with planning that considers solutions across all sectors and an implementation proposal that prioritizes action in Idaho's natural resource sectors, like agriculture and forestry, which are the backbone of the state's economy and deeply valued by Idahoans.

We strongly encourage the Environmental Protection Agency to support the State of Idaho's implementation grant proposal. If awarded, Idaho will achieve meaningful pollution reduction, improve the health and economic wellbeing of communities across the state, and reduce the future impacts of climate change. We are grateful for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's efforts to include a broad spectrum of partners throughout the planning and application process, and we are pleased to support Idaho's proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Menlove".

Mark Menlove
Idaho State Director