



March 28, 2024

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) Climate Pollution Reduction Act Implementation Grant Proposal

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) we would like to express our full support for INCOG's grant application to reduce climate pollution throughout the Tulsa MSA, by implementing sound conservation easements in GRDA's service area. GRDA, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC), has been implementing conservation easements as a management practice in the Illinois River basin since the late 1990's and has enrolled more than 2100 acres at a cost of \$3.85 million. Additionally, OCC has been funding conservation easements within the Grand Lake watershed totaling more than 450 acres at a cost of \$982 thousand.

The GRDA is a state agency that currently manages over 70,000 surface acres under their jurisdiction including more than 3,200 acres of bottomland hardwood forests that are actively managed for conservation and restoration. GRDA believes conservation easements are an excellent management practice for such activities. Considering the collaboration between GRDA and OCC on previous conservation easements, GRDA believes the INCOG application is an excellent way to reduce climate pollution. Not only has OCC demonstrated leadership implementing these conservation easements over the last couple of years working and cooperating with staff here at GRDA, but the INCOG has also clearly demonstrated exemplar environmental stewardship throughout northeast Oklahoma suggesting that such a partnership would likely be a complete success.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Darrell Townsend, II, Ph.D.  
Vice President, Ecosystems and Watershed Management  
Grand River Dam Authority

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