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Date: March 11th, 2024

To: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

I am writing this in support of the Lexington-Fayette Metropolitan Statistical Area Priority Climate Pollution Reduction Grants: Implementation Grant.

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government has established itself as a strong partner to Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS), in particular in areas of solid waste, water quality, campus urban tree canopy, safe routes to school and air quality. In fact, our 5-year Sustainability Action Plan goals are heavily reliant on our historic and ongoing partnership with LFUCG. FCPS is committed to sustainability, evidenced by our ambitious 5-year Sustainability Action Plan that includes a 5% increase in campus tree canopy, classroom/cafeteria/office recycling in 100% of our schools, 15% EUI reduction and Outdoor Classrooms in 100% of our schools by 2029. FCPS Sustainability collaborates with LFUCG's Sustainability Office, Dept of Env Quality and Public Works, Urban Forestry Division of Water weekly to implement our districtwide instructional and operational goals.

Studies have demonstrated that the presence of trees and urban nature can improve people's mental and physical health, as well as children's attention and test scores. Trees also encourage people to spend time outdoors, thus fostering a stronger connection to the community and to nature. FCPS has several schools in the twenty-seven (27) low-income and twenty-three (23) disadvantaged tracts. In fact, Fayette County Public School's minority enrollment is sixty percent (60%) and just over thirty-five percent (35.6%) are considered disadvantaged. Our students will benefit from planting more trees. The goals as it is outlined in this grant application with regard to increasing our urban campus tree canopies will invariably help our students understand the ecological, human health and economic benefits of trees on their campuses and in their neighborhoods, making a lasting impact on our shared community for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Tresine T Logsdon

Tresine Logsdon
Sustainability Curriculum Coordinator
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