



**RIST INSTITUTE FOR  
SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY**

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March 27, 2024

The City of Lowell  
Sustainability Division  
Attn: Katherine Moses  
50 Arcand Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Lowell, MA 01852

RE: Letter of Commitment for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Application

Dear Ms. Moses,

The University of Massachusetts Lowell (UML) is very excited to support the City of Lowell and their Reducing Emissions in Lowell through Infrastructure and Efficiency First (RELIEF) Climate Pollution Reduction grant application. The funds requested are critically important to ensure that all members of our community benefit from the City's comprehensive approach to sustainability.

UML has always appreciated Lowell's partnership on multiple sustainability initiatives over the past few years. We were excited to be selected as the first site in National Grid territory for a networked geothermal demonstration project. We appreciate collaboration on various federal and state grants to increase the awareness of and participation in residential energy efficiency programs offered through Mass Save. We are looking forward to rolling out a pilot program for Green Schools to educate students and faculty on Pillars of Sustainability. We believe that this history will benefit Lowell's RELIEF application.

UML will directly support the grant application in the following ways:

- Participate in Community Advisory Council meetings to provide input on: projects initiated through the grant, work progress, and opportunities to improve outcomes.
- Integrate discussion of RELIEF-funded projects into the Green Schools initiative to increase student learning, enhance outreach to school staff and parents, and help implement the decarbonization roadmap for schools included in the initiative.
- Provide general feedback on best practices for: engagement of those living in Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities (LIDAC), solutions to enhance emissions reduction outcomes, and opportunities to expand the benefits of RELIEF to the broader community, including UML students.

We are aware that strong community partnerships are vital to supporting our vibrant and diverse community. We look forward to partnering with Lowell on their support of our community through their decarbonization efforts.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Ruairi O'Mahony, written in a cursive style.

Ruairi O'Mahony  
Executive Director, Rist Institute for Sustainability and Energy  
University of Massachusetts Lowell