



March 21, 2024

Elizabeth Mahony
Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge St. 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Commissioner Mahony:

On behalf of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) I am writing to express our enthusiasm for partnering with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (MA DOER) on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application. We are committed to working with MA DOER in its effort to support medium- and heavy-duty fleet electrification in Massachusetts and the application's goal to equitably benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities.

While medium- and heavy-duty diesel vehicles in Massachusetts represent around 5% of total vehicles on the road, they contribute approximately 20% of on-road transportation greenhouse gas emissions and almost all of on road diesel particulate matter emissions. In addition, the emissions from these vehicles are inequitably concentrated in urban and low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs), disproportionately affecting the health of residents in those communities.

In the CPRG proposal, MA DOER has proposed a set of comprehensive and effective strategies that will address the many electrification challenges faced by fleets and enable the Commonwealth to achieve the substantial emissions and pollution reduction goals outlined in the application. Through enhanced electric vehicle rebates, technical and financial support for charging infrastructure, expanded fleet advisory services, LIDAC-based outreach and engagement efforts, and workforce development programs targeting training for essential electric vehicle maintenance and repair, this project, if awarded, will definitively support an accelerated transition to zero emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles among fleets throughout the Commonwealth.

BRPC is one of thirteen Massachusetts regional planning agencies, which are public organizations that encompass a multi-jurisdictional regional community. BRPC seeks to enhance the regional resilience and quality of life in the Berkshires region of Massachusetts through a variety of initiatives and projects encompassing land use, transportation, economic development, environmental management, sustainable communities and public health. BRPC has been actively collaborating with 32 rural and urban communities since 1966 to deal with the regional challenges, opportunities and assets.

BRPC will directly support both the outreach and engagement and LIDAC prioritization components of the MA DOER CPRG program through a host of commitments, including:

- Commit to partner with community-based organizations and MA DOER on outreach to and recruitment of fleets.

- Engage with fleets in the community and support state efforts to effectively communicate with them on the opportunities of the program.
- Prioritize the participation and recruitment of fleets that operate or garage vehicles within a LIDAC area.
- Provide ongoing feedback on the program and provide recommendations on any components that could be altered to be more effective.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has proven to be committed to the decarbonization and electrification of Massachusetts and its fleets specifically. BRPC is excited about the possibility of joining MA DOER to implement this important and far-reaching program. As evidenced by its oversight of the MOR-EV medium- and heavy-duty rebate program, as well as other related programs, we believe MA DOER has demonstrated a clear ability to manage this CPRG grant and all its components. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Matuszko', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas Matuszko, AICP
Executive Director