



Bryan Malinowski, C.M.
Executive Director

Thomas W. Clarke, P.E., C.M.
Deputy Executive Director

March 15, 2024

Metroplan
Attn: Casey Covington, Executive Director
501 W. Markham St., Ste. B
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Letter of Commitment for Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's CPRG application

Dear Mr. Covington:

This letter is intended to express the Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport's strong, long-term commitment to supporting the building efficiency and environmental justice goals outlined in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation application.

Clinton National Airport is Arkansas's largest commercial service airport, with 2,237,309 passengers in 2023. A seven-member commission, appointed by the Little Rock Mayor and City Board of Directors, governs the airport. Clinton National is a self-sustaining enterprise fund that generates its operating revenue. The airport's mission is to pursue all opportunities in flight to safely and efficiently connect our customers with the world and to promote economic development for all aeronautical activities. The state of Arkansas estimates Clinton National makes a \$1.7 billion annual economic impact. The airport is well positioned for long-term growth for our terminal redevelopment program to support CPRG having a proven track record of completing previous terminal energy efficiency projects and successfully executing and completing 85 previous Airport Improvement Program grants.

The Clinton National Airport will lead the Geothermal Central Utility Plant project included in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's CPRG implementation application. This project has the potential to be the largest vertical bore geothermal airport in the United States and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and provide energy cost savings in Arkansas' largest metro area by eliminating the use of natural gas for the airport terminal HVAC. Instead, LIT will use geothermal wells as a heat exchange and pump chilled and return water to energy efficient HVAC heat pumps throughout the terminal. The project will reduce the airport's terminal GHG emissions by 90% and reduce our electricity usage by 30% which is a \$200,000 annual energy cost savings. Grant funding will support the construction of the well field needed for the Geothermal Central Utility Plant. Clinton National Airport is committed to completing the Geothermal Central Utility Plant project consistent with the timeline outlined in the Tri-Regional Coalition's CPRG application.

I appreciate our inclusion in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's CPRG application. We are eager to participate in the coalition's efforts to protect the Natural State and ensure environmental and economic benefits to some of its most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas W. Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'C'.

Thomas W. Clarke
Deputy Executive Director – Acting Director