



03/08/2024

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 City of Bella Vista's strong, long-term commitment to supporting the Northwest Arkansas Green Network goals outlined in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation application.

Arkansas, known as the Natural State, faces critical environmental challenges. Air quality is a pressing concern, with pollutants impacting public health and exacerbating respiratory conditions. By curbing greenhouse gas emissions, we can mitigate these adverse effects. Moreover, Arkansas boasts abundant environmental assets, including pristine forests, waterways, and diverse ecosystems. Protecting these natural treasures ensures a sustainable future for generations to come.

However, our efforts must extend beyond environmental conservation. Low-income and disadvantaged communities often bear the brunt of pollution. These vulnerable populations deserve equitable access to clean air, safe water, and green spaces. By prioritizing emission reduction, we uplift these communities and promote environmental justice.

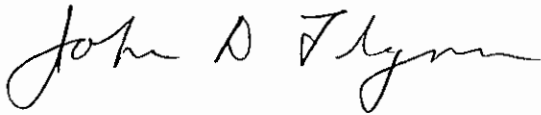
Lastly, the environmental sector offers immense potential for high-quality jobs. Investing in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and conservation initiatives creates employment opportunities while safeguarding our planet. We recognize that reducing greenhouse gas emissions isn't just an environmental goal—it's a commitment to the well-being of Arkansans and the resilience of our state.

Our hard-surface trail projects are accomplishing great things: creating equitable access to active transportation, providing immense recreational opportunities, and acting as a catalyst for a healthier community. Life is good here, but we also recognize that shifting weather patterns, a rapidly increasing regional population, and relentless development can threaten the benefits we have experienced. It is imperative that we protect the trail corridors and streams that meander throughout our city, because in doing so, we also protect our quality of life for future generations.

In partnership with the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC), The City of Bella Vista will work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and provide energy and transportation cost savings by restoring wetlands, conserving trail-adjacent lands, and continuing to pursue our objective of a healthy and active community.

I appreciate your dedication to implementing greenhouse gas reduction projects across Arkansas' three largest metro areas. We are eager to participate in the coalition's efforts to protect the Natural State and ensure environmental and economic benefits to over one half of Arkansas' population, including some of the state's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John D. Flynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John Flynn
Mayor, City of Bella Vista