

March 8, 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:

Please allow this letter to express the City of Bentonville'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.


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.

At the City of Bentonville, Environmental Stewardship and Preservation are among our guiding principles. We understand that for our community to maintain the personality and charm that we all enjoy, we must emphasize the care of our natural environment. Today, many of our problems stem from the rapid growth our region experiences. Managing storm water in a method that preserves and protects our streams and rivers is critical as we move forward. That is why, if awarded, you will see a commitment from our entire City Staff to ensure these projects are successful.

In partnership with the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC), the City of Bentonville will work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and provide energy and transportation cost savings by restoring the Town Branch Creek as it meanders through north part of our community enroute to the McKissick Creek and the Little Sugar Creek. Restoration and repair of this area will improve water quality, mitigate habitat loss and will increase accessibility for both humans and wildlife.

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 blue ink that reads "Stephanie Orman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Stephanie Orman, Mayor
City of Bentonville