



SIERRA CLUB

ARKANSAS CHAPTER

March 20, 2024

Metroplan

Attn: Casey Covington, Executive Director

501 W. Markham St., Ste. B

Little Rock, AR 72201

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

Dear Mr. Covington:

This letter is intended to express the Sierra Club Central Arkansas Group's support for the application by Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The goals that the Coalition has committed to achieve in its application align very closely with many of the efforts by the Sierra Club to protect the environment. In addition, given the scope of many environmental problems, it is very heartening to see such a geographically broad coalition working on this, helping the three largest metropolitan areas in the state.

The Sierra Club is arguably the most enduring and influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States. Among its mission statements is the commitment "to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources," and the application by the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition addresses efforts such as this. The components of the grant application focusing on reduction of greenhouse gases and investment in various electrical energy infrastructure components helping Arkansas to transition away from non-sustainable energy are very good to see, as are the plans on converting streetlights to LED technology (hopefully using smart lighting methods that protect the dark). The clear highlighting of investment in LIDAC communities is also welcome to see, given that Arkansas is a low-income state with a long history of LIDAC communities.

The Sierra Club Central Arkansas Group has been a partner with Metroplan for almost thirty years as a member of Metroplan's advisory councils. During that time, Metroplan has done much to help develop environmentally supportive transportation systems in Central Arkansas. We are pleased that Metroplan is applying for this grant, and hope that it will help Metroplan continue in this tradition.

Sincerely,

George Wise
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Carolyn Shearman
Central Arkansas Group Executive Committee

Patrick Stair
Central Arkansas Group representative to Metroplan Advisory Committee

CC: Tim Conklin – NWARPC Executive Director

CC: Joshua Robertson – City of Fort Smith Deputy Director of Business Administration