



# CENTRAL ARKANSAS

## Planning & Development District, Inc.

Serving The  
Counties of:

- ❖ FAULKNER
- ❖ LONOKE
- ❖ MONROE
- ❖ PRAIRIE
- ❖ PULASKI
- ❖ SALINE

March 19, 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 Central Arkansas Planning and Development District Inc.'s (CAPDD) commitment to supporting the green network/carbon sequestration/building efficiency/workforce development/economic growth goals outlined in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation application.

The coalition partners, Metroplan, Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, and City of Fort Smith have collaborated to develop a strategy to reduce pollutant emissions, create jobs, reduce energy consumption, and improve livability in the three largest Metropolitan areas of Arkansas. This is an extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate the value of coordination among regional entities to raise sustainability principles across the entire state of Arkansas.

CAPDD works directly with Metroplan to support regional economic development and quality of life for its residents. In support of CPRG activities, CAPDD's mission which includes serving as a catalyst for economic, community, and workforce development through planning, developing, promoting and/or implementing economic/community development projects and activities designed to improve the economic, community, and/or social well-being of the citizens of Arkansas.

Arkansas, known as the Natural State, faces critical environmental challenges. Air quality is a pressing concern, with pollutants impacting public health. 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

902 N. Center Street • P.O. Box 300 • Lonoke, Arkansas 72086

Phone 501-676-2721 • FAX 501-676-5020 • TDD Only: 711

"Equal Opportunity Employer / Program"

Metroplan Letter  
Page Two  
March 19, 2024

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.

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,



Rodney Larsen  
Executive Director