

February 29, 2024

Metroplan
Mr. 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 strong, long-term commitment of Central Arkansas Water to supporting the land conservation and greenhouse gas reduction goals outlined in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation application.

Central Arkansas Water is the largest drinking water utility in the state with a mission to deliver high quality, affordable, abundant, dependable water services to almost 500,000 customers in an eight-county area. We are committed to environmental sustainability and have adopted a strategic goal to be Net Zero by 2050.

In partnership with Metroplan, Central Arkansas Water will continue to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and provide energy and transportation cost savings through projects included in our Climate Action Plan. These shovel ready projects include energy efficiency upgrades in our water treatment plants and facilities, rapid transition to EV vehicles in our fleet, expanding solar capacity, and enhancing public recreational access for biking, hiking, and boating in our Lake Maumelle Watershed.

Arkansas, known as the Natural State, faces critical environmental challenges. Curbing greenhouse gases mitigates the adverse effects on our pristine forests, waterways, and diverse ecosystems, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come while protecting our drinking water quality.

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 promote environmental justice and enable the provision of affordable, high quality drinking water to all communities.

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.

Mr. Casey Covington
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CENTRAL ARKANSAS WATER

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Tad Bohannon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

C. Tad Bohannon, J.D., MBA
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Bernadette Rhodes, Grant Application Coordinator, Metroplan