



March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 Little Rock Sustainability Commission's strong, long-term commitment to supporting the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals outlined in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation application.

The Little Rock Sustainability Commission (LRSC) is an official Commission of the City of Little Rock created by a City Board resolution in 2018 to advise the city government on matters pertaining to environmental sustainability, including greenhouse gas reduction and climate pollution. The LRSC is made of fifteen citizen volunteers with a variety of relevant backgrounds and experiences, including in environmental engineering, climate advocacy, sustainable finance, higher education, health care, and state government. In 2022, the LRSC was tasked with developing a Climate Action Plan on behalf of the city government. We hope to align our planning process with the interventions outlined in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's CPRG application.

We have a vested interest in advancing a number of proposed solutions to climate pollution that were proposed in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's CPRG application, particularly as they pertain to the City of Little Rock's operations. Little Rock, Arkansas's state capital and largest city, serves as the center of the metropolitan area that is served by Metroplan. As such, we support measures like carbon capture through ecological restoration, transit mode-shifting through the expansion of trail networks, and building electrification and decarbonization through the expansion of energy services performance contracting (ESPC) programs. In partnership with Metroplan, the LRSC will work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and provide energy and transportation cost savings by working to build city street-level connections to regional trail networks, identifying city facilities eligible for ESPC investments, and communicating the implications of the CPRG funds to the necessary stakeholders at the City government.

Little Rock, and Arkansas more generally, 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, Little Rock boasts abundant environmental assets, including pristine forests, waterways, and diverse ecosystems.

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.

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 that reads 'Wesley Prewett'.

Wesley Prewett  
Chair, Little Rock Sustainability Commission  
wesley.prewett11@gmail.com