



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Renee Mallory, RN, BSN, Secretary of Health

Jennifer Dillaha, MD, Director

March 22, 2024

Metroplan

Attn: Casey Covington, Executive Director

501 W. Markham St., Ste. B

Little Rock, AR 72201

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

Dear Mr. Covington,

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) supports the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation application. The goals outlined in your application have direct and indirect impacts that will help protect and improve the health and well-being of Arkansans, including the protection of drinking water sources.

ADH serves as the primacy agency for the Safe Drinking Water Act in Arkansas. Source water protection is a preventative measure that protects drinking water sources. Your proposed activities associated with preserving and restoring natural infrastructure will improve water quality. Streambank and floodplain restoration projects will reduce sediment and nutrient loads to receiving streams while also helping alleviate the impacts of flooding during heavy rain events. The reduction of sediment and debris from raw water following a flood event can be very costly. Drinking water facilities downstream from your projects will see reduced costs for water treatment.

ADH is a centralized public health system with four main Divisions and a Public Health Laboratory. We staff 96 local health units throughout the state to provide clinical preventive services, administer public health programs, and issue licenses and certificates. We work with coalitions to protect and improve the health and well-being of the residents of Arkansas.

ADH and Metroplan have successfully worked together in the past on projects that benefit public health. I appreciate you taking the lead to implement these projects across Arkansas' three largest metro areas. ADH looks forward to working with the coalition to ensure environmental, economic, and public health benefits to roughly 1.5 million people.

Warm regards,

Richard L. McMullen

Richard L. McMullen, Ph.D.

Associate Director for Science, Division of Local Public Health

State Environmental Health Director

Arkansas Department of Health

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