



Metroplan
Attn: Casey Covington, Executive Director
501 W. Markham St., Ste. B
Little Rock, AR 72201

March 20, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Covington:

This letter is intended to express Beaver Water District's strong, long-term commitment to supporting the Northwest Arkansas Green Network goals outlined in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation application.

Arkansas, known as the Natural State, 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, 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 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.

Beaver Water District's mission is to provide our customers with safe, economical drinking water. In support of our mission, Beaver Water District (BWD) actively participates in source water protection activities in collaboration with outstanding environmental organizations across Northwest Arkansas. Our ongoing support of these organizations has enabled us to expand our source water protection activities while promoting regional growth and security amongst the environmental sectors.

Currently, BWD is working with the Watershed Conservation Resource Center (WCRC) and the City of Fayetteville to restore and maintain 225 acres of floodplain and wetlands along the West Fork White River. In addition to the ecological benefits and carbon storage of a healthy and thriving floodplain, BWD looks forward to the enhanced access to trails, alternative transportation, and recreational opportunities that this collaborative effort will provide to the community.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Lane Crider', with a stylized flourish at the end.

M. Lane Crider, P.E.
Chief Executive Officer
(479) 756-3651