



March 21, 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 Western Arkansas Planning & Development District's (WAPDD) strong, long-term commitment to supporting the 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.

Since our founding in 1966, WAPDD has supported the community, economic, and workforce development within the six-county region of Western Arkansas. We have an unwavering commitment to the citizens and businesses we serve and strive to make Western Arkansas the shining star of the state. In partnership with The Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), The Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority (WAIA), and The City of Fort Smith, WAPDD will work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and provide energy and transportation cost savings.

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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,



Sasha Grist  
Executive Director  
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