



Mr. Casey Covington, Executive Director  
Metroplan  
501 W. Markham Street, Suite B  
Little Rock, AR 72201

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

Dear Mr. Covington:

The Arkansas Advanced Energy Foundation (AAEF) is excited to affirm its commitment to the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application. AAEF's mission to accelerate Arkansas's transition to a clean energy economy aligns seamlessly with the goals of the CPRG program, positioning us as a pivotal partner in this transformative initiative.

As we work to promote greater public understanding of advanced energy in Arkansas through research, public education programs and economic and workforce development, we propose to work with the Coalition on two key aspects – workforce development and building energy efficiency through a regional Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE) program. AAEF will leverage its unique positioning within the advanced energy sector, characterized by extensive partnerships, collaborations, and key relationships across a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Our work with Metroplan, Pulaski County PACE, and other entities to administer the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Revolving Loan Fund (CPACE RLF) project underscores our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, and providing energy cost savings across Arkansas' largest metro area. Our efforts will focus on expanding the program's reach to additional counties within the region and ensuring access to funding for smaller projects, particularly in low-income, disadvantaged communities, which have historically not had access to an equitable funding source. Dedicated staff will ensure identified projects and players are met with the resources required to be successful.

Our role in workforce development is equally critical. AAEF is dedicated to addressing the high demand for workers with specialized skills in the advanced energy sector. We will expand ongoing efforts to create apprenticeships, workshops, on-the-job training, and career events. Our collaboration with the Arkansas Apprenticeship Alliance and the Arkansas Office of Skills Development exemplifies our proactive approach to cultivating a skilled workforce ready to meet the needs of the advanced energy industry. While there is a high demand for workers with the specialized skills needed for advanced energy jobs, the pool of skilled workers is still being developed to meet these needs. The AAEF will expand ongoing efforts to facilitate the creation of apprenticeships, workshops, on-the job training and career events to help link trained workers with jobs in the industry.



AAEF's comprehensive network of partnerships extends to educational institutions, potential candidates and industry employers. These relationships enable us to serve as a facilitator in the advanced energy sector, working to address bottlenecks and cultivate equitable standards for training.

Our efforts in promoting public understanding and support for advanced energy through research and public education programs are instrumental in building a conducive environment for both the CPACE program and our workforce initiatives. We are committed to leveraging our unique position and extensive network to ensure the success of the CPACE program and to foster sustainable career pathways in the advanced energy sector. AAEF is eager to contribute to the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's efforts to protect the Natural State while ensuring environmental and economic benefits for its most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Waldrip". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lauren" being more prominent than the last name "Waldrip".

Lauren Waldrip  
Executive Director