



March 27, 2024

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

RE: Commitment for Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's CPRG Application

Dear Mr. Covington:

I am writing on behalf of the Arkansas Municipal League (League) to support the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition CPRG (Tri-Region or Coalition) application<sup>1</sup>. The population of the Coalition is approximately half of the population of the State of Arkansas. For that many people to participate in this grant program and be exposed to the education and efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality as well as energy and transportation cost savings is an opportunity that cannot and should not be ignored. The Coalition partners have the expertise to make the most of this program. The League works directly with all the municipalities that are members of the Coalition and is confident that this natural partnership will produce great results.

The League was founded in 1934 and has worked tirelessly on behalf of the cities and towns of Arkansas to produce valuable services and programs that help municipalities use their limited revenues in efficient and expedient manner. We recently added a Grants Division which is headed by our Senior Grants Counsel, Caran Curry. Caran has worked in the grants field for over 40 years and has lectured in over 35 states to many groups including but not limited to the National League of Cities, the Dept. of Justice, the Dept. of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Within the past 12 years, she was the Project Manager for three EPA projects involving climate change which received EPA recognition and awards.<sup>2</sup> Additionally the projects included low impact development and education. A Section 319 project in particular which revamped Little Rock's Main Street. Caran has previously served successfully as a state agency director and administrator of many federal grants. Previously she served as the Program Manager for a cooperative agreement for the US DOT. If this grant is awarded, the League is committed to providing technical assistance, training and other necessary services to the grant administrator as well as the individual cities involved in the project.

If the grant is awarded, the League will also use its many communication platforms to feature the project via articles, social media, and group distribution emails. Hopefully, this will go a long way in publicizing the success of the grant.

I thank the Coalition for applying for these projects and hope it gets a good vote from the EPA reviewers.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Hayes  
Executive Director

CC: Tim Conklin, NWARPC Executive Director  
George McGill, Mayor of Fort Smith  
Carl Geffken, Fort Smith City Administrator

<sup>1</sup> The Tri-Region Coalition is comprised of Metroplan, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission and the City of Fort Smith.

<sup>2</sup> The Greening of America's Capitals, Community Climate Showcase Top Ambassador's Award and People's Choice Award.

Cave City Mayor Jonas Anderson, President • Magnolia Mayor Parnell Vann, First Vice President • Brookland Mayor Kenneth Jones, Vice President, District 1 • Clinton Mayor Richard McCormac, Vice President, District 2 • Eureka Springs Mayor Robert "Butch" Berry, Vice President, District 3 • Crossett Council Member C.T. Foster, Vice President, District 4 • Executive Director Mark R. Hayes