



# FORT SMITH HOUSING AUTHORITY

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 the Fort Smith Housing Authority's 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.

Fort Smith Housing Authority is a non-profit whose mission is to improve the quality of life for Fort Smith and Sebastian County residents, through housing and community development. We work toward this mission by administering Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers; owning, operating, and managing six low-income housing developments in Fort Smith; and advocating for additional funding to increase the affordable housing supply.

In partnership with the City of Fort Smith, the Fort Smith Housing Authority will work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and provide energy and transportation cost savings by installing Solar at our elderly and/or disabled development, Nelson Hall Homes.

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,

Mitchell Minnick  
President & CEO  
Fort Smith Housing Authority