



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 American YouthWorks 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 ensure 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.

American YouthWorks helps young people realize their full potential and effect positive change within their community. The Conservation Corps of American YouthWorks is a shared experience of purpose, of service to the community, and of education. People with differing levels of experience and backgrounds come together to protect the environment, build leadership skills, and care for others.

Houston, TX

3130 Rogerdale Rd, Ste. 190
Houston, TX 77042

Austin, TX

1901 East Ben White Blvd.
Austin, TX 78741

Baton Rouge, LA

6032 Fieldstone Dr, Ste. B
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Participants engage in conservation projects on public lands, coastal regions, disaster areas, and National Parks across the Central Southern United States.

In partnership with the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC), American YouthWorks will work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and provide energy and transportation cost savings by providing conversation crews to complete on the ground projects.

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,
Tom Helmer
Conservation Corps Director
American YouthWorks
thelmer@ayw.org