



BARRY HYDE
County Judge / Chief Executive Officer

March 27, 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 Pulaski County's commitment to supporting the goals outlined in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation application. Metroplan is recognized as a leader in regional transportation and sustainability planning within Central Arkansas and this grant proposal expands upon its past success.

Pulaski County is dedicated to green network development, being the lead agency on the development of the Southwest Trail connecting Little Rock with Hot Springs. This grant will allow this trail to be enhanced to include new construction and critical conservation and carbon sequestration measures along its riparian borders. The trail across the Fourche Bottoms connects two LIDAC communities and provides greater access to the downtown business district as well as the historic Little Rock Central High School.

Pulaski County has participated in several building efficiency projects for county buildings, including a comprehensive assessment of all 40 county-owned buildings that led to significant improvements and energy savings. Recently, the county completed a 4.7-megawatt solar array within the Port of Little Rock's industrial park. Another solar array, a 250-kilowatt facility near the Pulaski County jail, went online in 2021. Together, they are expected to provide 90% of the electricity required by the county government. The county will participate in the grant to perform additional upgrades while advancing its goals for fleet efficiency conversion to renewable energy. Pulaski County has also created the Pulaski County Energy Improvement District (PACE) and recognizes the added benefits to business that would be achieved through an expanded regional PACE program. All of these will benefit the economic growth of the region.

This coalition of Metroplan, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, and City of Fort Smith demonstrates the value of this collaborative opportunities of Arkansas Metropolitan Areas working together to maintain the natural state and address the environmental and air quality challenges it faces.

Sincerely,

Barry Hyde
Pulaski County Judge/CEO
Metroplan Board President