

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOUSING &  
LIVABLE COMMUNITIES**

Maura T. Healey, Governor ◆ Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor ◆ Edward M. Augustus Jr., Secretary

April 1, 2024

Mr. Marc Draisen  
Executive Director  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
60 Temple Place  
Boston, MA 02111

**RE: Letter of Support for application for EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant**

Mr. Marc Draisen:

On behalf of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), I am writing to offer support for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Implementation Grant application being submitted to by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in partnership with the Boston, Chelsea, and Lowell Housing Authorities. The Greater Boston Affordable Housing Decarbonization Accelerator (AHDA) that is proposed in the application would support key pathways for accelerating building decarbonization and serving environmental justice communities to meet the Commonwealth's 2050 climate goals.

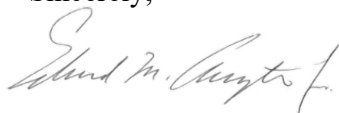
Decarbonizing existing buildings is critical to achieving Massachusetts' greenhouse gas reduction targets. While net zero and Passive House standards are becoming more common in new affordable multifamily construction projects, the Commonwealth has roughly 210,000 units of existing affordable and public housing that pose real challenges for deep energy retrofits. Expanded funding, resources, and technical assistance are needed so that owners of affordable housing, particularly Housing Authorities, can successfully decarbonize their buildings and ensure that low-income and disadvantaged populations are not left behind in the clean energy transformation.

MAPC's proposed AHDA addresses many of these needs and is well-aligned with ongoing and upcoming state initiatives. If successful with this CPRG grant application, the expanded funding for decarbonization and much needed technical assistance would help to improve affordable housing owner participation in utility, state, and federally funded incentive programs. The proposed community of practice would provide a venue to bring more affordable housing owners into the conversation around decarbonization, while encouraging greater knowledge sharing and proliferation of best practices. EOHLC looks forward to future participation in the community of practice.

As a Regional Planning Agency, MAPC is well situated to oversee a technical assistance program, develop collective and streamlined procurement pathways, and facilitate a regional community of practice. MAPC has partnered with these municipalities and their housing authorities in the past to install affordable and reliable high-speed internet. In addition, MAPC also administers an existing Technical Assistance Program and Accelerating Climate Resilience grant program and regularly facilitates regional dialogues around key climate issues. Lastly, MAPC's collective procurement work has streamlined the competitive procurement process cities and towns need to undertake to purchase clean and energy efficient products and services.

MAPC's regionalized approach will support stakeholders in affordable housing across the Greater Boston region in developing and implementing plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollutants in the buildings and populations where investment is most critically needed. In closing, I wish to express strong support for the MAPC coalition's CPRG grant application and ask that the review committee give their application full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward M. Augustus, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.  
Secretary