



# Michigan Municipal Electric Association

March 15, 2024

Phil Roos  
Director  
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
525 West Allegan Street  
Lansing, MI 48933

Subject: Michigan Municipal Electric Association's (MMEA) Support of the State of Michigan's CPRG Implementation Grant General Competition Application, (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Director Roos,

The Michigan Municipal Electric Association (MMEA) affirms our partnership with the State of Michigan and the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in response to EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07. We are pleased to endorse Michigan's objective to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and ambitiously site renewable energy in Michigan through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. EGLE's proposed Renewables Ready Communities Program, the Renewables Ready Communities Awards and the Brownfield Renewable Energy Pilot Program will unlock significant GHG emissions in the near term, provide substantial community benefits in low-income and disadvantaged communities, and improve capacity and technical expertise in renewable energy siting statewide.

MMEA represents all 40 of the state's municipally owned electric utilities. This puts us in a unique position to ensure new renewable resources are interconnected to our electric systems. Unlike other cities that may need to work with an outside utility and likely meet their own additional requirements, our Members own the utilities within their communities. This makes it easier and faster to build renewable resources. The State's CPRG is an added incentive for our communities to figure out the necessary zoning and permitting to fast-track project development. Additionally, anything promoting the development of clean energy projects through the local process, at the community level, is preferred and likely more advantageous than an approval process at the State level.

MMEA Member communities eagerly anticipate the opportunity to collaborate with the State during the CPRG grant program period. MMEA is ready to work with the State to facilitate application opportunities to its Members, especially those related to the Renewable Ready Communities Award program and Brownfield Renewable Energy Pilot Program. Given our Members run their electric utilities, we are in an ideal position to help the State meet their goals.

Given Michigan's proven success in implementing equitable climate policies, we have confidence in their ability to achieve the objectives laid out in the application. This initiative will stimulate increased investment in local renewable energy projects critical to achieving the State's climate objectives. We are enthusiastic about partnering with the State of Michigan to advance the goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through this pivotal program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katie Abraham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katie" and last name "Abraham" clearly distinguishable.

Executive Director