

March 13, 2024

Electronic Submission via EPA Portal

Administrator Michael Regan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Letter of Intent to Sign Coalition Memorandum of Agreement for Midwest Industrial
Decarbonization Challenge (NOFO EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Administrator Regan:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency submits this letter of support for the State of Michigan's coalition application entitled "Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge" in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) No. EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07. As required by the NOFO, as a member of the coalition, we intend to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) and the other members of the coalition that sets forth the specific roles and responsibilities of each partner agency as well as the other information called for by the NOFO. The EGLE expects to submit this MOA no later than July 1, 2024.

Minnesota's Climate Action Framework, published in 2022 establishes a vision for climate action that will make Minnesota carbon-neutral, resilient, and equitable. These three co-equal pillars of Minnesota's Framework guide our collaborative climate work. Our Priority Climate Action Plan was built off that foundation. Michigan similarly published its Healthy Climate Plan in 2022. Our plans align our two states with many shared goals for equitable climate action that supports a robust clean economy. This proposal connects strongly with the ambitions in those documents to be national leaders in collaborative climate action.

The proposed greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures will achieve significant cumulative GHG reductions, provide substantial community benefits in low-income and disadvantaged communities, and complement other funding sources to maximize both GHG reductions and community benefits. The State of Michigan, through the Office of Climate and Energy, has a commendable track record of effectively using state and federal grants while actively engaging with low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Given our shared goals and proven success in implementing equitable climate policies, we have full confidence in Michigan's ability to lead the development of the Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge and achieve the objectives laid out in the application. These objectives include emissions reduction and mobilizing financing and private capital to address barriers to implementing clean and innovative industrial processes. Furthermore, this initiative will stimulate increased investment in clean industrial projects critical to achieving the state's climate objectives, particularly within historically underinvested communities facing longstanding challenges.

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Michigan's proposal will strengthen regional collaboration to address climate change and further develop the Midwest's clean economy leadership. We are excited about the opportunity to significantly reduce GHG emissions and demonstrate new technology while also prioritizing the reduction of co-pollutants and supporting healthy communities in Minnesota and beyond.

We are pleased to join EGLE and our other regional partners in this coalition application and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katrina Kessler". The script is cursive and fluid.

This document has been electronically signed.

Katrina Kessler, P.E.
Commissioner

KK/AJS:kj/rjp