

March 22, 2024

Katrina Kessler, Commissioner  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Energy Economy MN support of the State of Minnesota's CPRG Coalition Proposal for the following 3 programs; Equitable Residential Decarbonization (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07); Single Entity Proposal for Climate-Smart Food Systems (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07); as well as Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge (NOFO EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), we write today in support of all three proposals led by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in which the agency is applying for funding under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program to implement projects and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We are focused on educating Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy. Our business membership is comprised of over 60 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state. CEEM stands committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive.

CEEM is pleased to see an emphasis on equitable residential decarbonization work because of the critical role it plays in reducing GHGs from our built environment, as well as the business opportunity it presents many of CEEM's member businesses. Our organization has worked extensively to support the Energy Conservation and Optimization bill in 2021, and the current ECO upgrades being proposed this legislative session. This overarching state efficiency policy is one of the reasons the [American Council for an Energy Efficiency America](#) consistently ranks Minnesota as having the strongest energy efficiency policy in the Midwest.

We also support MPCA's grant proposal to rescue emissions across the food system. CEEM is pleased to support this collaborative proposal because we all have a role to play in making Minnesota a national leader in climate-smart approaches to our food system. Our organizations coming together allows us to take a systems approach and capture multiple benefits while achieving significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions and carbon sequestration across all aspects of our food system.

Finally, CEEM affirms our partnership with the MPCA in its coalition with the State of Michigan in response to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant implementation funding opportunity. We are pleased to endorse the Midwest Industrial Coalition's objective to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the region's top polluting, hard-to-decarbonize industries.

Minnesota's Climate Action Framework and Michigan's Healthy Climate Plan, both published in 2022, as well as both states' Priority Climate Action 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 and of our states to be national leaders in collaborative climate action.

Minnesota has all the ingredients to lead on innovation, and foster new ideas that will allow us to decarbonize difficult-to-decarbonize sectors such as agriculture, heavy-industry and buildings. In fact, CEEM, in collaboration with Grid Catalyst, recently launched [Minnesota Energy Alley](#), a public-private partnership made possible by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce and is part of a larger focus on driving innovation to secure the state's energy and economic development future.

Our organization is proud of Minnesota's leading work to secure a clean energy future, and our net-zero economy goal by 2050. We are enthusiastic about partnering with the MPCA to advance our shared climate goals and the goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ambitious and vital CPRG program.

Sincerely,



Gregg Mast  
Executive Director  
[gmast@cleanenergyeconomymn.org](mailto:gmast@cleanenergyeconomymn.org)

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Katrina Kessler, Commissioner  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Axaule Sultanova's Support of the State Minnesota's participation in the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant coalition proposal, Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge (NOFO EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

I, Axaule Sultanova, Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority Board Member with Expertise in Sustainable Development and Energy Conservation and an experienced energy & decarbonization professional, support the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in its coalition with the State of Michigan in response to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant implementation funding opportunity (EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07). I endorse the Midwest Industrial Coalition's objective to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the region's top polluting, hard-to-decarbonize industries, as an individual and a professional, not on behalf of the entire MnCIFA board.

Through the Midwest Industrial Coalition program period, I anticipate collaborating with the MPCA to deliver incentives programs to reduce industrial GHG emissions, including but not limited to industrial energy efficiency, fuel-switching, and innovative technologies. My commitment extends to supporting program development and implementation of industrial emission reduction strategies.

Minnesota's Climate Action Framework and Michigan's Healthy Climate Plan, both published in 2022, as well as both states' Priority Climate Action 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 and of our states to be national leaders in collaborative climate action.

The proposed 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 (OCE), has a commendable track record of effectively utilizing state and federal grants while actively engaging with low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Given our states' shared goals and proven success in implementing equitable climate policies that support a clean economy, we have full confidence in Michigan's ability to lead the development 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.

I am excited to support this collaborative proposal because we all have a role to play in making the Midwest a national leader in industrial decarbonization and a clean economy. I am enthusiastic about partnering with the MPCA to advance our shared climate goals and the goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ambitious and vital CPRG program.

Sincerely,



Axaule Sultanova, PE  
643 36 ½ Ave NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
720-386-0830  
aksaule@gmail.com



March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Katrina Kessler, Commissioner  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Subject: **Cummins'** Support of the State Minnesota's participation in the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant coalition proposal, Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge (NOFO EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

We, Cummins, affirm our partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in its coalition with the State of Michigan in response to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant implementation funding opportunity (EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07). We are pleased to endorse the Midwest Industrial Coalition's objective to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the region's top polluting, hard-to-decarbonize industries.

Through the Midwest Industrial Coalition program period, we anticipate collaborating with the MPCA to deliver incentives programs to reduce industrial GHG emissions, including but not limited to industrial energy efficiency, fuel-switching, and innovative technologies. Our commitment extends to supporting program development and implementation of industrial emission reduction strategies.

Minnesota's Climate Action Framework and Michigan's Healthy Climate Plan, both published in 2022, as well as both states' Priority Climate Action 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 and of our states to be national leaders in collaborative climate action.

The proposed 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 (OCE), has a commendable track record of effectively utilizing state and federal grants while actively engaging with low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Given our states' shared goals and proven success in implementing equitable climate policies that support a clean economy, we have full confidence in Michigan's ability to lead the development 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.

Cummins is excited to partner in this industrial decarbonization work because it aligns with our mission. Our mission is making people's lives better by powering a more prosperous world. We understand that our products and facilities have environmental impacts, and we are working to reduce them through our Planet 2050 initiative, which has three pillars:

- Reducing greenhouse gas and air emissions in line with experts' recommendations.
- Using natural resources in the most sustainable way possible.
- Helping communities address their major environmental challenges.

In Minnesota we are actively implementing these measures at our large manufacturing facility in Fridley, and at our Sales and Service and office locations throughout the state. You can read more about this work at <https://www.cummins.com/company/esg/environment/planet-2050>.

Cummins is also working to decarbonize our products and work towards zero emissions solutions through our Destination Zero strategy. Destination Zero is the road we've paved to a zero emissions future where we continue to provide the power that our world needs. Internal combustion engine (ICE) technologies are an important transitory step for the trucking industry. We are focused on a combination of advancing zero and improving engine-based products today. This includes diesel, natural gas, hydrogen internal combustion in addition to battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell, and electrolyzers.

We strive to be a strong partner with the State of Minnesota. We are excited to support this collaborative proposal because we all have a role to play in making the Midwest a national leader in industrial decarbonization and a clean economy. We are enthusiastic about partnering with the MPCA to advance our shared climate goals and the goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ambitious and vital CPRG program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alex Savelli', written over a horizontal line.

Alex Savelli

Managing Director – Hydrogen for the Americas



+1 612 430 3794



[alex.savelli@cummins.com](mailto:alex.savelli@cummins.com)





# STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Walz  
Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

March 18, 2024

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

**Re:** Governor support for Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge (NOFO EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Administrator Regan:

I write to you to express my enthusiastic support for the participation of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in the State of Michigan's coalition application entitled "Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge" in response to EPA's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) No. EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07. I am pleased to endorse the Midwest Industrial Coalition's objective to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the region's top polluting, hard-to-decarbonize industries.

Minnesota has long led the way for climate action in the Midwest. 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 of 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 Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge will support Minnesota's ongoing work towards our equitable clean economy future by supporting a climate-smart industrial sector, reducing GHGs and other harmful air pollution, and expanding job opportunities.

Given our shared goals and proven success in implementing equitable climate policies, we have full confidence in Michigan's ability to lead the development 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.

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 Michigan and our other regional partners in this coalition application and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Walz".

Tim Walz  
Governor



March 4, 2024

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

Subject: WI Sustainable Business Council Support the State of Michigan's CPRG Coalition Proposal for the Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge, (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Administrator Regan,

The [Wisconsin Sustainable Business Council](https://www.wisconsinbusinesscouncil.com) (owned by WMEP Manufacturing Solutions) supports the State of Michigan in its partnership with the State of Wisconsin in response to EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07. We are pleased to endorse the Midwest Industrial Coalition's objective to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the region's top polluting, hard-to-decarbonize industries.

Through the Midwest Industrial Coalition program period, we anticipate collaborating with the State of WI and beyond to deliver programs to reduce industrial GHG emissions, including but not limited to industrial energy efficiency, behavior training and innovative technologies. **Our expertise is in supporting companies develop sustainability metrics and systems for tracking their metrics, developing supporting programs and implementation of industrial emission reduction strategies.**

The proposed GHG reduction measures will achieve significant cumulative GHG reductions, provide substantial community benefits, and complement other funding sources to maximize both GHG reductions and community impacts. Both the State of Wisconsin, through the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy(OSCE) and the State of Michigan through the Office of Climate and Energy has a commendable track record of effectively utilizing state and federal grants while actively engaging communities. Under the leadership of Governors Tony Evers and Gretchen Whitmer, both states have demonstrated a strong commitment to clean energy and achieving carbon neutrality.

Given the both State's proven success in implementing equitable climate policies, we have confidence in their ability to develop 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.

At the Wisconsin Sustainable Business Council (WSBC), we believe that sustainability is good business and good business is sustainable. WSBC supports businesses in advancing sustainable principles and practices, offering a professional network where businesses, big and small, unite to share insights,





experiences, and best practices to advance their sustainability initiatives, learning and growing together as a community.

We have a long history of working with the manufacturing sector in WI to support their sustainability efforts and have been educating businesses on ways to reduce GHG emissions for over a decade. Our assessment process takes a

We have successfully been involved in the states previous E3 program which showcase how we have and are able to partner with the State in future programs. Additionally, we also have had long with standing relationships and prior collaboration with the State of Wisconsin through education, outreach and engagement around connecting the business community on climate action across WI.

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,

*Jessy Servi Ortiz*

Jessy Servi Ortiz  
Managing Director  
Wisconsin Sustainable Business Council



March 1, 2024

Mr. Cory Connelly  
Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes, and the Environment  
525 W. Allegan Street,  
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: Letter of Support for the Midwest Governors Decarbonization Challenge

Dear Mr. Connolly,

Holcim U.S. has been built on continued innovation to lower our environmental impact. We applaud efforts that focus on protecting our environment while continuing to allow businesses to innovate. The Midwest Governors Decarbonization Challenge (MGDC), we feel, supports innovation within many industry sectors, including the one in which we operate. We ask for your continued support in Michigan's efforts to provide innovation while decarbonizing the industry.

Holcim U.S. is pleased to see that Michigan's Department of Energy, Great Lakes, and the Environment (EGLE), along with its coalition partners in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, and Illinois, is prioritizing projects that develop and encourage the adoption of new and innovative decarbonization technologies through the MGDC. This approach will help increase market transparency, encourage innovation, and lead to the most significant reductions in GHG emissions, all while supporting low-emissions industrial production in the United States.

If the coalition receives funding for its MGDC through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG), Holcim U.S. intends to submit a project proposal for consideration where we have facilities in Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio. We have a long-standing tradition of innovation at our facilities in the region. The MGDC will allow us to continue and, more importantly, speed up that innovation.

Obtaining funding through the Midwest Governors Decarbonization Challenge is critical to the success of our decarbonization efforts, and Holcim U.S. fully supports the coalition's CPRG application.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Jeffrey Scott, written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey Scott  
Plant Manager