



March 15, 2024

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

Subject: [University of Dayton] Support the State of Michigan's CPRG Coalition Proposal for the Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge, (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Director Roos,

We, University of Dayton, affirm our commitment to work with the State of Michigan in its partnership with states of Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin to carry out a regional effort to reduce industrial emissions in response to EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07. We are pleased to endorse the Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge objective to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the region's top polluting, hard-to-decarbonize industries.

We understand the role the application contemplates we will play as a university research entity. We are ready, willing and able to carry out the roles and responsibilities contemplated should we enter into a contract with our partnering state agency in Ohio in the event EPA awards the grant for the Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge to the State of Michigan. Through the Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge program period, we anticipate collaborating with the State 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.

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. Because many industrial facilities are located in or upwind of low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC), we know that improvements to the environmental performance of industrial facilities in the region will bring benefits to LIDAC communities. We understand that the states in the coalition are committed to achieving such benefits.

We understand industrial decarbonization because we work with industrial facilities in Ohio to provide technical and analytical support, including assessments of measures that can be undertaken at those facilities to reduce the use of fossil fuels and otherwise reduce emissions, often saving money in the process. The role anticipated for us under the Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge is a natural scaling-up of the work we are already doing.

We have considerable expertise in this area. We are attaching to this letter the CVs of our leadership and principal staff.



The University of Dayton Industrial Assessment Center (UD-IAC) was established in 1981. Since then, the UD-IAC has completed 1,082 industrial energy assessments for the Department of Energy. The program has enjoyed stable and dedicated leadership throughout its tenure.

The challenge of modernization and decarbonization is faced across the manufacturing sector across the Midwest region. Modernization is a particular challenge for the labor force in the Midwest among Small and Medium-sized Manufacturers (SMMs). Industry 4.0 promises to deliver advancements requiring expertise and flexibility to realize them fully. The IAC program is well-suited to deliver on these needs, providing education on advanced manufacturing practices to the student workforce and facility personnel. Creating targeted new practices will allow for continual learning and improvement for IAC clients, driving workforce development among participants.

The UD-IAC is committed to an ethic of continuous improvement and leverages its more than 43 years of experience and knowledge to achieve academic excellence, conduct innovative research, and champion DOE initiatives.

We are enthusiastic about partnering with the State of Ohio to advance the goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through this pivotal program.

Sincerely,

Jun-Ki Choi, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering / Renewable and Clean Energy
Director, US Department of Energy's Industrial Assessment Center (UD-IAC)

Director, Sustainable Manufacturing Laboratory (SuMaLa)

University of Dayton

Kettering Laboratories 345G

300 College Park, Dayton, OH 45469-0238

Phone: 937-229-5344

Email: jchoi1@udayton.edu