



March 27, 2024

Commissioner Damon Chaplin
Minneapolis Health Department
505 4th avenue South, suite 520
Minneapolis, MN 5541

Subject: African Economic Development Solutions Support of the CPRG Twin Cities Commercial Energy Efficiency Program (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07).

Dear Commissioner Damon Chaplin,

I write to affirm that African Economic Development Solutions plans to partner with the CPRG Twin Cities Commercial Energy Efficiency Program and Saint Paul to implement the suite of commercial energy efficiency, electrification, and decarbonization offerings identified in your agency's proposal.

We anticipate participating in the proposed work by actively engaging in the development and refinement of programming and strategies to effectively deliver energy efficiency, electrification, and decarbonization services to businesses, with a strong emphasis on those located in disadvantaged communities. At a minimum, this means we will:

- actively participate in the four annual convenings described in the proposal,
- share information and resources from the CPRG Twin Cities Commercial Energy Efficiency Program with the communities we serve to build awareness about programs and encourage business participation,
- share information from the communities we serve with the CPRG Twin Cities Commercial Energy Efficiency Program staff and relevant local government staff as part of program development and to improve programming and results over time.
- Contribute in specific ways that emerge out of the development and implementation of the proposed work and that make sense for our organization.

African Economic Development Solutions is excited to partner in this business decarbonization work because it aligns with our mission, which is builds economic, community, and social wealth in African immigrant communities in the United States by providing culturally grounded support and services to businesses, leaders, and collaborations.

. In particular, our organization can bring the perspective of small business, African immigrant communities and our technical skills in supporting small businesses.

We are excited to have this proposal moving forward as a coalition because we see the work of commercial decarbonization working most effectively as a collaboration between local governments, community organizations, and established and effective service providers. Local governments and community-based organizations are trusted messengers that connect effectively with individual business

owners, and established service providers have the tools and expertise necessary to implement improvements professionally and efficiently.

We have worked with city of St. Paul, city of Minneapolis, DEED, and other local governments and we will strengthen our partnership. We partnered with local and regional partners to support our small business. We are committed to continuing and growing this partnership through this CPRG proposal.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gene Gelgelu', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dr. Gene Gelgelu, founder, President, and CEO

African Economic Development Solution
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