

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  
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