



March 12, 2024

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

Subject: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Support of the State Minnesota's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Single Entity Proposal for Climate-Smart Food Systems (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

I am pleased to affirm the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) intent to partner with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and other state agencies in the Climate-Smart Food Systems CPRG grant proposal.

Our agencies have been actively collaborating on climate action through the Climate Change Subcabinet and the development and implementation of Minnesota's Climate Action Framework. The Framework envisions a Minnesota that is carbon-neutral, resilient, and equitable; this vision guides our climate work.

We are excited about the ongoing collaboration across state agencies represented by this proposal because we all have a role to play in making Minnesota a national leader in climate action. As a part of this proposal, the Minnesota DNR will advance peatland restoration on state and Tribal lands. This will be accomplished through the design, implementation and monitoring of restoration projects on state-managed public lands, and grants to Tribal Nations to fund peatland restoration on Tribal lands. Another agency partner, the Board of Soil and Water Resources, will expand its peatland restoration work with private landowners and local units of government. Together we will restore 10,000 acres of degraded peatlands, providing significant climate and water quality benefits.

Minnesota DNR also supports this CPRG proposal because it aligns with our mission to work with Minnesotans to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life. In particular, Minnesota DNR will bring expertise in peatland restoration and monitoring, climate science, ecosystem services, stakeholder engagement, and Tribal relations to this collective effort.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Strommen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Strommen  
Commissioner