

March 14, 2024

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

RE: Minnesota Department of Commerce Support of the State of Minnesota's CPRG Coalition  
Proposal for Equitable Residential Decarbonization (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

I write to affirm the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Commerce) will partner with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and other state agencies involved in the proposal, to implement the suite of equitable residential decarbonization programs in your agency's proposal.

Commerce has actively developed two proposal elements for which Commerce will lead implementation: (1) establishing a manufactured homes decarbonization program to weatherize, electrify, and/or replace inefficient homes with low-carbon dwellings; and (2) expanding the Department's State-Local-Tribal Energy Navigator Partnership Program to ensure residential decarbonization is done in an equitable manner by ensuring information is reaching disadvantaged communities statewide. First, the manufactured homes decarbonization program seeks to decarbonize a hard-to-reach sector while improving affordability, comfort, and safety in manufactured homes. Commerce will leverage its expertise in weatherization and clean energy to weatherize and electrify manufactured homes throughout the state. In homes where it is not possible or not cost-effective to decarbonize, we will replace the existing home with a Zero Energy Ready Home. This innovative approach will allow residents to move directly into a new energy-efficient home without the associated expenses involved with weatherizing older manufactured homes.

Second, the energy navigator program will build on and expand the impact of the EPA-funded "Justice40 Minnesotans Navigating Climate Action" pilot program. This program seeks to build broad partnerships between the Department and community-based organizations (CBOs) serving environmental justice communities in Minnesota to co-develop a one-stop information shop of available climate resilience and clean energy incentives, and green-job training connections. CPRG

The Honorable Katrina Kessler

March 14, 2024

Page Two

funds will be used to expand this program by partnering with more CBOs and reaching even more households in environmental justice communities.

In addition to the specific proposal elements Commerce is leading, we fully support the proposal more broadly. As leaders of residential decarbonization through multiple state, utility, and federal programs, we believe a multi-pronged strategy engaging with multiple state agencies, local governments, Tribal governments, and CBOs has strong potential to deliver transformative impacts for equitable residential decarbonization in our state. The proposal language and budget reflect the results of the collaborative process to develop the proposal. Commerce looks forward to working together to implement the proposal.

Sincerely,



Grace Arnold  
Commissioner