



## MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



March 1, 2024

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Implementation Grant Coalition

Dear Environmental Protection Agency.

I write to confirm that the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (Band) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is part of the coalition led by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). My staff has briefly mentioned this coalition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 in notice of intent in an e-mail on January 29, 2024. The State, the Band, and other coalition members will be implementing projects for Equitable Residential Decarbonization. We chose to join this State-led coalition so that we could address decarbonization of our Tribal government owned and operated rental housing units, Tribally built Band-member owned housing, and other Band-member owned housing, regardless if the housing is located on our Tribal Trust lands or on our Tribally-owned Fee-simple lands, either on-Reservation or off-Reservation, or are on Allotted lands to individual Band members and their families, or are on Fee-Simple lands privately owned by individual Band members, located anywhere within the State of Minnesota.

As part of the coalition, we will deliver programming to help our Tribal citizens who own their homes in Minnesota and Tribal government who owns and operates rental housing units to complete planning, and together work to decarbonize homes through energy efficiency, beneficial electrification, and other relevant technologies. Most of our Tribal government owned and operated rental housing units are already weatherized and some have solar furnaces, and Tribal government-built homes are well insulated and are energy efficient, but this cannot be said for other housing stock. For successful decarbonization, we need deeper penetration of these measures across all housing types for our Tribal citizens.

We plan to work through the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the State that lays out responsibilities of each party and sign the MOA agreed to by MPCA and Band

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Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Implementation Grant Coalition with the State of Minnesota  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

DNR. This MOA will be submitted to the EPA by July 1, 2024, as part of supporting documents in the State's Implementation Grant application.

Through this State-led coalition, we will address climate pollution for all Tribal housing associated with the Band. As noticed on January 29, 2024, we will also be applying for the Tribal Implementation Grant for all non-housing facilities associated with our Tribe. We hope by this two-pronged approach, we can more fully reduce our climate pollutants for a cleaner and safer future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Applegate". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly Applegate  
Commissioner of Natural Resources

cc: Samuel Moose, Commissioner of Administration, Mille Lacs Band  
Susan Klapel, Executive Director of Natural Resources, Mille Lacs Band DNR  
Daniel Boyd, Director of Housing, Mille Lacs Band CMD  
Perry Bunting, Director of Environmental Programs, Mille Lacs Band DNR  
Peter Okoro, Climate Specialist, Mille Lacs Band DNR