



March 28, 2024

Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Director
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Air Resources Division
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

RE: Letter of Commitment for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald,

New Hampshire Housing is committed to partnering with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for the proposed pre-weatherization/weatherization measure that is included in NHDES's application for funding through EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. This five-year measure will create incentives for New Hampshire's homeowners, as well as owners of multi-family housing properties, to pre-weatherize and weatherize existing residential buildings to improve energy efficiency, which will reduce greenhouse gas and co-pollutant emissions from fossil-fuel and electricity consumption at those buildings.

New Hampshire Housing is a self-supporting public corporation that promotes, finances, and supports housing solutions for the people of New Hampshire. We operate rental and homeownership programs designed to assist low- and moderate-income persons with obtaining affordable housing. We have helped more than 55,000 families purchase their own homes and been instrumental in financing the creation of more than 16,000 multifamily housing units for low-income tenants.

NH Housing has extensive experience in weatherizing multifamily housing. In 2010, we established a Greener Homes Program to provide energy audits and retrofits for multifamily housing. Over the course of three years, we completed energy audits for 1,277 units in 41 projects around the state; completed energy retrofits for 981 units in 27 projects; created annual energy savings of 5,514 MMBTU's; reduced carbon emissions by 1,883 metric tons annually; reduced annual operating costs for the 27 projects; reduced electricity consumption on average by 35%; and reduced heating material consumption on average by 33%.

NH Housing is now embarking on a new initiative to benchmark the energy performance of affordable multifamily properties, and to assist multifamily property owners in finding federal and state incentives to fund energy retrofits. We also have established stringent energy efficiency requirements for new multifamily properties financed with federal tax credits awarded by NH Housing, and we have joined the NH Department of Energy in requesting \$69 million of EPA's Solar for All funding to bring the benefits of renewable energy to low-income households.

Pre-weatherization of residential buildings will allow previously or potentially deferred income-eligible households to access incentives from state and federal weatherization and electrification programs. Reasons for deferral from existing programs include deficiencies in the building

structure, presence of asbestos-containing materials, and inadequate electrical or plumbing systems. Once those types of deficiencies are addressed, households will be able to take advantage of weatherization and electrification incentive programs, including the weatherization program proposed by NHDES in its application. NHDES's weatherization measure will provide incentives to upgrade the insulation envelope and HVAC systems of residential buildings to improve energy efficiency, health, safety, and comfort, while also providing cost-effective energy savings.

NH Housing is aware that strong community partnerships and networks are needed to design and manage the proposed program to advance environmental and public health issues in New Hampshire. Because of our experience in financing, supporting, and monitoring affordable, multifamily housing properties, as well as our experience in energy benchmarking and energy efficiency retrofits for multifamily buildings, NH Housing is well-positioned to support the design and implementation of the program, including connecting the benefits of the program to low-income and disadvantaged communities throughout New Hampshire.

Therefore, NH Housing agrees to work in New Hampshire to support deployment and community engagement of the program.

- We agree to provide input in public comments where needed and participate in potential working groups where the program is discussed.
- We agree to support NHDES in achieving meaningful involvement from community and labor groups when our expertise and networks may be helpful.

Should this funding request be successful, we look forward to working with you on this valuable project beginning in mid-2024. Please let us know how we may be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Rob Dapice
CEO/Executive Director