



April 1, 2024

*Submitted electronically via email.*

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

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

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald,

The Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire (BIA) is committed to assisting the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for the potential implementation of proposed measures included in the state's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and in NHDES's application for funding through EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. These five-year measures will create incentives to reduce harmful air pollution statewide, address barriers to implementation in disadvantaged communities, complement and unlock existing funding sources, and foster job growth and training in the necessary skilled trades.

The BIA serves as New Hampshire's statewide chamber of commerce and leading non-partisan business advocate. BIA represents nearly 400 members in a variety of industries. Member firms employ 100,000 people throughout the state, which represents one in seven jobs, and contribute \$5 billion annually to the state's economy. The BIA is a convenor of stakeholders among the business community and is prepared to engage involvement and garner input from commercial and industry stakeholders located in all regions of the state.

In the transportation sector, the state's largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, funding would be used to support the development of publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) and plug-in EV charging stations and additional support for, and expansion of, existing transportation options. The tourism economy supports the beautiful North Country of New Hampshire. We believe it would be valuable to both the economy and the environment for New Hampshire to further develop EV infrastructure.

BIA strongly supports efforts to improve energy efficiency. For municipal buildings, funding would support energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy, energy storage projects at local government wastewater and drinking water facilities. This will help New Hampshire communities lower energy costs, reduce GHG emissions, and improve public and environmental health. Further, in the residential building sector, the state's second highest source of GHG emissions, the weatherization program proposed by NHDES in its application to provide incentives to upgrade the insulation envelope and HVAC systems of

residential buildings would improve energy efficiency, health, safety, and comfort, while also providing cost-effective energy savings.

It is a top priority for the BIA to support proposals that strike the delicate balance between economic development with environmental protection. In the waste and materials management sector, incentive programs to reduce waste generation and maximize diversion of waste from disposal in New Hampshire's landfills and incinerators would lower GHG emissions from waste combustion and decomposition of waste materials. These funds may be used to improve access to reuse options, recycling, and food waste diversion programs and infrastructure for the public, institutions, and municipalities.

Workforce availability is the number one challenge for Granite State employers. For the workforce development sector, incentives would help reduce barriers to stimulate high-quality workforce development activities that are critical to the success of New Hampshire's other proposed measures. These funds may be used for capital improvements and increasing teaching staff at training facilities, tuition assistance, offsetting the cost of required equipment and tools for students, and offsetting the travel costs associated with attending classes and commuting to worksites for apprenticeships and internships.

The BIA is aware that strong community partnerships and networks are needed to design and manage the proposed measures to advance environmental and public health issues in New Hampshire. Because of our role as the statewide chamber, the BIA is well-positioned to support the design and implementation of the measures, including connecting the benefits of the program to communities in all regions of the state. Therefore, the BIA 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 the business community 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,



Michael Skelton

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