



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546



**Office of the
Commissioner**

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March 27, 2024

Michael S. Regan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General
Competition

Dear Administrator Regan,

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is pleased to support the application submitted by the City of New Haven under the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program for implementation funds.

The City of New Haven's proposal represents a bold effort to decarbonize Union Station, a critical transit hub that serves over 625,000 riders annually, while providing clean geothermal energy to the energy-burdened community adjacent to it via a strategic deployment of shared energy infrastructure known as a Thermal Energy Network. If the City is awarded funding for this project, the gateway to New Haven, its busiest train station and the housing development greeting new arrivals, will be transformed into a highly visible symbol of the environmental, health, and resilience benefits of Thermal Energy Networks.

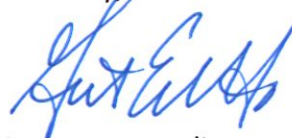
Reliable and equitable access to clean, renewable energy is critically needed by the New Haven community. To achieve its goal of eliminating fossil fuel emissions by 2030, the City of New Haven must pursue bold, transformative energy projects like this one, which seeks to provide clean, affordable energy to an entire area of the city, rather than individual homes or buildings. This project would install a thermal energy network that would provide low-cost, pollution-free heating and cooling to both Union Station and the planned 1,000-unit, mixed-income housing development to be constructed across the street. The Union Station Area Thermal Energy

Network (USATEN), would be designed to support additional buildings in the future and may expand or extend into other nearby neighborhoods. Serving as a model for municipally-owned neighborhood-scale decarbonization, USATEN will utilize modern public-private partnerships, engineering design best practices, and highly refined project planning techniques emphasizing local participation and equity. The State of Connecticut's Priority Climate Action Plan, which includes thermal energy networks as a carbon pollution reduction measure, provides the framework for this project.

At CTDOT, our mission is to provide a safe and efficient intermodal transportation network that improves the quality of life and promotes economic vitality for the State and the region. This transformative project is of particular interest to CTDOT because it serves as a critical first step toward the decarbonization of the city's housing stock and transit system, while also serving as a vehicle for building a coalition of proponents who can support the expansion of thermal energy networks in New Haven.

Your agency's time and consideration of the City of New Haven's CPRG proposal is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Garrett Eucalitto", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Garrett T. Eucalitto
Commissioner