

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Grants and Debarment
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

**RE: City of New Haven's Application to Funding Opportunity #EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07,
Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition**

To whom it may concern,

We write in strong support of the application submitted by the City of New Haven for funding under the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grants Program. The City of New Haven's proposal represents a bold effort to decarbonize 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.

The New Haven community critically needs reliable and equitable access to clean, renewable energy. 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.

The proposed funds will support the installation of a thermal energy network that will provide low-cost, pollution-free heat to 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) will be designed to support additional buildings in the future and may expand or extend into other nearby neighborhoods. USATEN will serve as a model for municipally owned neighborhood-scale decarbonization, utilizing 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.

USATEN will transform the gateway to New Haven, its busiest train station, and the housing development greeting new arrivals, into a distinct symbol of the environmental, health, and resilience benefits of Thermal Energy Networks

The City of New Haven's proposal will take a necessary first step toward decarbonizing the city's housing stock and transit system and will build a coalition of proponents who can support the expansion of thermal energy networks in New Haven. Therefore, we urge your full and fair consideration of the City of New Haven's application to the Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grants Program.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate


CHRIS MURPHY
United States Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rosa L. DeLauro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rosa" being the most prominent.

ROSA L. DeLAURO

Member of Congress