



**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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ARSENIO ROMERO, PhD
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

March 14, 2024

Kolt Vaughn
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N4050
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Vaughn:

I am writing to support the New Mexico Environment Department's application for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The New Mexico Public Education Department believes that addressing air and climate pollution is an important part of providing our state's students with a healthy learning environment that is essential to their ability to maximize their educational potential. This is especially true for our most vulnerable students, who encounter multiple barriers to learning.

The agency is particularly supportive of the ECO-Schools Program, which takes a multi-pronged approach to move our buildings and school transportation systems toward more environmentally responsible practices and systems. As we look toward improvements to our aging school infrastructure, there is an exciting opportunity to create a sustainable transformation of green energy and transportation that will benefit our children and the communities that they are a part of.

The agency looks forward to partnering with the Environment Department to create a healthy environmental climate that will allow the children of New Mexico to thrive. I hope you will consider this letter a statement of support and ultimately approve the grant application.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Gregory Frostad
Assistant Secretary of Education

RS/bb/cc