



Michelle Lujan Grisham • Governor

Mark Roper • Acting Cabinet Secretary

25 March 2024

Letter of Support – New Mexico Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Dear friends and colleagues at the EPA,

The New Mexico Economic Development Department's (EDD) Office of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) writes in support of the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) application to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). In doing so, we not only offer our endorsement for the measures put forward in NMED's application, but also our promise of collaboration and supporting expertise to bolster these initiatives in future phases of New Mexico's work on the CPRG.

In December of last year, we worked jointly with NMED to host an input session on New Mexico's CPRG application, collecting feedback from the Sustainable Economy Advisory Council. Through this collaboration and subsequent interactions, we were able to see firsthand NMED's commitment to social equity and justice in its approach to the CPRG.

In particular, JEDI Office values NMED's attention toward workforce development and corresponding wraparound services in its proposal for a Clean I-40 Transportation Corridor; as in many states, New Mexico experiences the lack of social infrastructure and appropriately certified individuals as a leading barrier to the creation of sustainable economic development. New Mexico has an abundance of motivated and talented individuals ready to enter the clean energy workforce, and NMED's proposed collaboration with our Department of Workforce Solutions is vital to ensuring services such as language support, childcare, and assistance from locally embedded agency representatives, especially for rural areas.

Moreover, JEDI Office welcomes NMED's focus on small and local businesses in its Clean Truck Incentive Program. As New Mexico state government's primary provider of technical assistance to businesses owned by Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals, typically residing in EPA's designated Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities, JEDI Office considers itself an enthusiastic collaborator for this measure. We are familiar with the difficulties of providing accessible resources to small businesses in low-income areas, especially where language barriers are involved. As such, we are excited to advise NMED on its implementation of this measure. We are confident that our experience working with relevant businesses across the state can serve as a useful template for NMED.

Finally, as a sister state agency to NMED, EDD is also grappling with the on-the-ground reality of how to implement Justice40 in keeping with New Mexico's specific needs and its status as an acutely climate-vulnerable state with high concentrations of "disadvantaged" communities. Beyond committing to provide our expertise in support of the above measures, JEDI Office also looks forward to working with NMED more generally as we together hone our theories and practices surrounding the provision of community benefits and the metrics for tracking successful delivery of such benefits.

JEDI Office recently gained a Just Transition Advisor, who chairs the state's Sustainable Economy Task Force and is working with several state agencies to ensure that their commitments to

Justice40 are concrete, feasible, and actionable. Toward this end, the Just Transition Advisor has begun developing supplemental guidance on Justice40 for use by state agencies to add depth and specificity to their federal grant applications and corresponding implementation efforts.

Given NMED's enthusiasm about this supplemental guidance, JEDI Office looks forward to bringing it to bear in service of New Mexico's CPRG initiatives. While we applaud the granularity of NMED's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and the amount of stakeholder engagement that informed its contents, we also recognize that federal definitions for terms such as "Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities" do not always capture the nuances of social inequities and environmental burdens experienced in each state, county, or locality. Considering this, we hope that our concerted analysis on New Mexico's unique challenges and opportunities will instill confidence that NMED is supported by other capable state government partners as it navigates the uncharted territory of CPRG implementation.

In all of the capacities mentioned here, we look forward to building upon the foundation provided in NMED's PCAP. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shani M. Harvie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shani M. Harvie
JEDI Program Manager
New Mexico Economic Development Department