



March 19, 2024

Basil Seggos, Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 14th Fl
Albany, NY 12233

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Commissioner Seggos:

As Executive Director of the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, I am pleased to have this opportunity to write this letter of support for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) application to the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program, tentatively titled "Building Community Resilience through Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions".

In accordance with this Proposal, DEC, in partnership with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), will implement programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from facilities and services that play key resiliency roles for New York's communities. The programs included in this proposal will not only address greenhouse gas emissions in the near- and long-term, but will also provide substantial co-benefits such as air quality improvements and health benefits, with a particular focus on public services and disadvantaged communities.

CNY RPDB staff currently assists local governments in efforts to improve resiliency and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through various means and is interested in providing further support in the areas described in this proposal. Each component of this application has the potential to transform New York's communities and create lasting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants. These proposed programs, when implemented together, will ensure that investments in emissions reductions also support more resilient public services and buildings.

CNY RPDB staff is pleased to see DEC and NYSERDA seamlessly incorporate resiliency into measures that reduce greenhouse gas reductions. Such focus will future-proof the places where New Yorkers get their food or access public services, and ensure that disadvantaged communities receive investments. In particular, funding heating and cooling centers not only reduces carbon emissions and improves air quality, but also meets an essential public health need as we face more extreme temperatures due to climate change.

I strongly endorse this application and look forward to seeing these programs implemented in New York State.

Please let me know if my office can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David V. Bottar", is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark or stamp.

David V. Bottar
Executive Director