



33 Elk Street, Suite 203
Albany, NY 12207
(518) 930-7000
execdir@feedingnys.org
feedingnys.org



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

March 25, 2024

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing on behalf of Feeding New York State to express our enthusiastic support for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) application to the U.S. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program, titled "Building Community Resilience through Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions."

With this proposal, NYSDEC, 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 serve key resiliency purposes 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.

Feeding New York State is the membership organization of the ten Feeding America food banks located in the state of New York. Our mission is to lead the effort for a hunger-free New York. We do this via advocacy and operations. Our advocacy work aims to support public policy at the State and Federal levels to reduce hunger. Our operations include fresh produce rescue, food rescue/diversion in the retail and manufacturing sectors, food purchasing, and food transportation. We serve the people of New York by providing this high-quality food at zero cost to a network of over 3,000 food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens and the like. In each of the last several years, our ten members and FNYS distributed well over 300 million pounds of food, and supported food banks in other states with over 50 million pounds of rescued produce.

Our partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation goes back over five years. This partnership has supported the creation of what is probably the most innovative and successful food rescue/diversion program in the United States. Under DEC's leadership, together we have worked with several hundred organizations, mostly grocery stores, to divert over 15 million pounds of food out of municipal landfills. We have picked up, transported and delivered this food to our food

banks and charitable food providers, feeding millions of New Yorkers in the process. This food diversion prevented the generation of substantial methane and carbon dioxide; lowered costs for the donors; provided high quality food to the needy – and all at an operating cost of well under twenty cents per pound. As part of the Feeding America network, we confer frequently with our colleagues in other states. The New York food diversion program that DEC created is word class, and although several other states have passed food waste laws, none has developed a working program that delivers this level of results. We routinely get asked by other states to help them with their food waste strategies. The DEC team has provided the funding, environmental expertise, data management, and most important the leadership to make all this happen.

I have described our partnership in some detail because we are an organization driven by mission accomplishment. Anyone can write a proposal. NYSDEC has proven it can *execute* a proposal and achieve results.

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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Egan', with a stylized, flowing script.

Dan Egan

Executive Director, Feeding NYS