



Lee Worsley
Executive Director

☎ + 919-558-9395

✉ lworsley@centralpinesnc.gov

📍 4307 Emperor Boulevard,

Suite 110, Durham NC 27703

🌐 www.centralpinesnc.gov

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Implementation Grant Application (General Competition)
submitted by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

This letter serves as Central Pines Regional Council's (CPRC) commitment to support the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's (NCDEQ) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program as part of the EPA CPRG Implementation Grant General Competition application. North Carolina has made substantial strides in implementing climate policies and initiatives, but the state is encumbered by restrictive funding sources that limit potential additional climate action. The proposed work in this application comes at an important time, particularly for decarbonizing the transportation sector and commercial and residential buildings sector. North Carolina consistently ranks as one of the highest states that experiences escalating economic and societal losses due to weather and climate-related natural disasters each year. The programs outlined below will increase investment in historically under sourced and supported multi-modal transportation initiatives and target market transformation gaps that are unaddressed in traditional weatherization programs.

I write this letter of commitment as the Executive Director of CPRC. We are a member-driven organization serving as a leading resource to connect communities and enhance their strategic priority outcomes through regional policy, collaboration, and technical assistance at the local, regional, and state level. CPRC is committed to helping communities reduce their GHG emissions and prepare for the effects of our changing climate by creating and implementing climate and energy action plans,

hazard mitigation plans, energy-use and GHG inventories, climate vulnerability assessments, and climate resiliency plans. We are excited to implement programs that will reduce GHG emissions in our eight-county CPRC Climate Action Plan (PCAP) region.

We anticipate supporting NCDEQ on the following CPRG implementation activities, including:

- Establishing and administering a Regional Electrify Program to reduce the barriers-to-entry for energy audits, energy efficiency and weatherization+ retrofits, conversion to heat pump heating and cooling, electric appliances, electric micro-mobility, and electric lawn equipment. This will include funding for weatherization of non-residential buildings in low-income disadvantaged communities (LIDAC) in our region as well as “make-ready” funds for homes that have been deferred from the state weatherization program for low income households.
- Establishing and administering a systems approach to address critical funding gaps within existing vehicle miles travelled (VMT) reduction programs to reduce the transportation related GHG emissions, ensuring convenient, affordable, and easy mobility access for residents.

The effort to decarbonize North Carolina is critically important. As noted above, we will work with NCDEQ to undertake GHG efforts, serving as a partner to establish and administer and the Regional Electrify program and to establish and administer a systems approach to current VMT reduction programming. For additional information, please contact Emily Barrett the Environment & Resilience Director here at Central Pines Regional Council at ebarrett@centralpinesnc.gov.

Respectfully,



Lee Worsley