March 16, 2024

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 the North Carolina Department of Commerce’s (Commerce or Department) 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. We are excited to support this project by lending our expertise to the development and delivery of relevant industry workforce training and educational support programs.

Workforce training to support a clean energy economy aligns with the Department’s mission to “improve the economic well-being and quality of life for all North Carolinians,” and will yield significant investments and family-sustaining jobs in communities across the State, many of which have been underserved and under resourced for generations. The opportunities in the clean energy economy will result in improved economic well-being, economic mobility, and better quality of life for all.

The Department is committed to developing and fostering a “first in talent” workforce to meet the needs of our best in class, fast-growing economy. Commerce employs a Business Relationship Manager and Head of Corporate Citizenship who serves as a liaison between the Department and the business community, assisting in developing and implementing stakeholder engagement strategy and projects focused on our key priorities including environmental sustainability, work-based learning, workforce development, and childcare solutions. The Department is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility which permeates internal and external relationships. In addition, Commerce is a member of the CLEANCarolinas NSF Type 1 Award alongside academic, industry, and other public members working to stand up the Carolinas as an innovation engine, creating, manufacturing, piloting, and deploying use-inspired clean energy innovations in offshore wind and grid enhancement technologies and the jobs that go with each stage.

We anticipate supporting NCDEQ on the following CPRG implementation activities:

* Workforce evaluation, needs assessment, and assistance with development of or referral to appropriate training and education resources.
* Developing and fostering industry and training/education relationships.
* Engaging with appropriate business and industry about the opportunities inherent in CPRG implementation.

Again, we are excited to support NCDEQ’s CPRG application and are committed to work with NCDEQ towards our shared goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning North Carolina to a clean energy economy. Please feel free to contact me if you would like additional information.

Sincerely yours,



Jennifer R.F. Mundt

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