

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

March 21, 2024

The Hon. Michael S. Regan, Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Regan:

Please accept this letter outlining my strong support for the three North Carolina Climate Pollution Reduction Grant applications: (1) the Atlantic Conservation Coalition ("ACC") application led by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; (2) North Carolina's statewide application led by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality; and (3) the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority's "States Enabling Resilient Local Energy Systems" application which includes the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality as a committed coalition member. Each of these applications is a strong and transformative proposal that builds upon North Carolina's historic climate action, maximizes greenhouse gas reductions and benefits to surrounding communities, and presents a unique opportunity to create durable, bipartisan partnerships across state borders to address crucial climate challenges.

The ACC proposal is a bipartisan effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while bolstering climate resiliency in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland. The coalition states contain some of the nation's most vital carbon sequestering coastal habitats, peatlands, and forests and I am pleased to support this new regional approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with our neighbors to the north and south.

In North Carolina, our natural and working lands sequester 34% of our state's gross greenhouse gas emissions. That's why in February of this year I signed Executive Order No. 305, setting bold and actionable targets for protecting and restoring forests and wetlands in North Carolina. The ACC grant would provide the significant funding needed to help make those goals a reality. The ACC presents a unique opportunity for the entire region to work together in pursuit of common goals to protect what we have and restore what we have lost.

North Carolina's statewide application specifically targets key gaps in investment across the state, with a particular focus on underserved communities. If awarded, the

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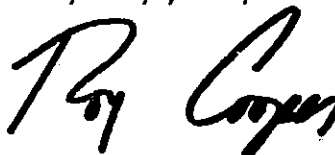
state will be able to substantially expand eligibility for home weatherization to those most in need of assistance. It will allow us to electrify polluting heavy-duty vehicles that travel through our most vulnerable communities. This proposal will also make our streets safer by investing in multi-modal and active transportation infrastructure.

Finally, last year's deadly Maui wildfires are a stark reminder of the need for rapid investments in climate adaptation and resilience. North Carolina is no stranger to increasingly severe natural disasters, and we are proud to join Hawai'i's States Enabling Resilient Local Energy Systems coalition. Under this program, we plan to make substantial resiliency investments at emergency shelters to reduce emissions and provide vital stability to vulnerable communities in times of crisis.

I applaud the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts in building an exciting and innovative program that will have lasting effects long after funds are invested. My administration took an active role in developing these proposals, and I strongly encourage the Environmental Protection Agency to consider funding these innovative efforts to tackle the climate crisis head-on.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roy" and last name "Cooper" clearly distinguishable.

Roy Cooper

RAC/cm/swh