



March 29, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Re: Letter of Commitment for Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) of the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program:
Implementation Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB), a nonprofit that focuses on environmental projects and education, including tree planting, this letter acknowledges our organization's commitment to support and participate in the project outlined in the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area CPRG Implementation Grant.

KOB has worked to improve Omaha's urban ecosystem for more than 65 years. While we celebrate the many positive successes that our organization and the city have achieved, we recognize that future climate change is certain and, if left unchecked, will be detrimental to our urban ecosystem.

Since 2018, KOB has worked with the City of Omaha on tree-planting projects under our Trees for Omaha program, planting more than 3,500 trees in public green spaces. The project outlined in the CPRG Implementation Grant will be instrumental in continuing this work and aligns with our organization's goals to meet the pressing need of climate change, address environmental justice issues, and achieve GHG reductions and community environmental benefits.

KOB's role in the proposed project will be to complete urban afforestation projects, including planting trees in existing greenspaces and assisting in converting hardscape areas to greenspaces and planting trees as part of this conversion. Trees planted will represent a diverse mix of native and well-adapted non-invasive trees, improving the resiliency of the urban tree canopy and ensuring trees have the best chance to reach full maturity and maximize carbon sequestration.

KOB will coordinate a warranty and maintenance agreement for all planted trees, provide public education around tree selection, planting, and care, and hold community conversations to receive input on tree planting locations and tree-related needs, especially in census tracts designated as disadvantaged per the CEJST.

We hope that the EPA will approve this grant application and support the work of the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely,

Christie Abdul-Greene

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christie Abdul-Greene", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Executive Director, Keep Omaha Beautiful