

March 29, 2024
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Re: Letter of Commitment for the City of Omaha's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)
Implementation Grant

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of The Sand Lab, this letter acknowledges our organization's commitment to support and participate in the projects submitted by the City of Omaha and outlined in the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area CPRG Implementation Grant.

The Sand Lab inspires, educates, and supports the advancement of a diverse workforce that is reflective of the neighborhoods in which we work. We provide innovative opportunities for both individuals and emerging construction businesses to thrive.

The Sand Lab was created in partnership with Blair Freeman Group, a woman and minority-owned Class A construction company and project management firm. After extensive research was conducted around current workforce development programs in the construction workforce trades, The Sand Lab was launched in 2022, to focus on creating pathways for job and career seekers in eastern Omaha to participate in the growing construction and community development sector.

The Sand Lab's role in the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) will be to launch an initiative focused on energy sector jobs within and adjacent to the construction workforce, to support investments in residential weatherization and retrofit programs, solar residential programs, and additional rebates for energy efficiency in the region. The Sand Lab aims to close the growing gap in the Midwest for energy sector jobs to help the region achieve its climate goals.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maranda Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maranda Adams
Chair of the Board
The Sand Lab
Co-CEO Blair Freeman