



March 8, 2024

Louie Krak

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
400 Market St
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Letter of Commitment for Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Implementation General Competition
(CPRG Competition)

Dear Mr. Krak,

Catalyst Connection (Catalyst) supports strong and climate-focused initiatives, such as the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's CPRG Competition. Founded over 35 years ago, Catalyst is a Pittsburgh-based non-profit organization based dedicated to helping small- and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) in southwestern Pennsylvania innovate, expand, create better jobs, and boost revenue, growth and productivity. Catalyst is a Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Center established by the U.S. Department of Commerce to be the nation's leading edge support for manufacturers and is a Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (PA IRC) backed by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development that is the leading edge of manufacturing support in the Commonwealth. It is Catalyst's mission to provide technical assistance, access to capital, and other support to SMMs to help them become better manufacturers. Along with six other MEP centers and PA IRCs that cover the entire Commonwealth, Catalyst serves over 12,000 SMMs and 560,000 manufacturing employees.

Should the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) receive an award under the CPRG Competition, Catalyst is committed to providing strong, long-term partnership to help implement the Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions in Pennsylvania (RISE PA) program. Throughout the five-year period of performance, Catalyst will be responsible for conducting statewide education and outreach and providing technical assistance to SMMs in collaboration with the PA IRC network to help build the pipeline of industrial decarbonization projects for the \$40,000,000 Small-scale Award Track (SAT). Utilizing a \$2,400,000 subaward, Catalyst will work to identify and recruit SMMs with high greenhouse gas and co-pollutant emissions profiles that could then apply to for an implementation grant under the SAT to abate those emissions. Catalyst will also receive a \$4,000,000 subaward to competitively procure and manage a third-party contractor to perform 160 GHG Emissions Reduction Audits for SMMs from 2024-2029.

In coordination with DEP and the Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP), Catalyst will design education and outreach materials and host informational webinars and workshops for SMMs across Pennsylvania. Catalyst's services and support are critical for allowing DEP to more effectively and efficiently administer RISE PA and ensure successful overall programmatic implementation. DEP lacks both the expertise and the staff capacity to administer the SAT, whereas Catalyst is well-positioned to leverage their existing organizational capacity and robust SMM network to fill this role. RISE PA is critical to the success of Pennsylvania's decarbonization efforts, and Catalyst fully supports DEP's CPRG application.

Sincerely,

Petra Mitchell, President and CEO