

March 21, 2024

Philadelphia Energy Authority
Attn: Emily Schapira, President & CEO
1400 JFK Boulevard
City Hall room 566
Philadelphia, PA 19107

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Application

Dear Ms. Schapira,

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is pleased to support the Philadelphia Energy Authority's application for funding through the US Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the bi-state, nine county Greater Philadelphia Region, DVRPC works with stakeholders to approve and advance investment that supports the vision laid out in our Long-Range Plan, *Connections 2050*, for an equitable, resilient, and sustainable region.

Philadelphia Energy Authority's (PEA) application to the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant will enable our municipalities, counties, and communities across the region to maximize reductions to greenhouse gas emissions, while prioritizing benefits for our most disadvantaged residents. PEA's projects and programs fully align with the Philadelphia PA-NJ-DE-MD MSA's Priority Climate Action Plan, created under CPRG. As the MPO, we led the PCAP planning effort and will help implement this critical program through the building and management of a regional coalition of stakeholders to advance climate action that positively impacts the entire region.

In particular, should EPA select this application for CPRG funding, we will create a Shared Energy Manager program to catalyze decarbonization of local government operations. Many local governments seek to lead by example and manage energy costs by decarbonizing their operations, but they often lack the technical expertise or staff capacity to do so. By implementing a Shared Energy Manager program as a regional entity, we will support the implementation and scaling of clean and energy efficient projects for local governments in southeast PA, particularly those identified through the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool, ensuring that our region's most socioeconomically and climate vulnerable populations have access to safe, clean, and resilient government facilities.

DVRPC confirms our commitment to take necessary steps to support the implementation of the projects included in PEA's application as well as PEA's broader portfolio of projects to mitigate the impacts of climate change and invest in low income and disadvantaged communities. We look forward to playing an essential role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions across our region to protect human health, improve environmental quality, and create access to new, family-sustaining jobs as part of this transformational opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ariella Maron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ariella" and last name "Maron" clearly distinguishable.

Ariella Maron
Executive Director
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission