



Upper Minnesota Valley
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Helping Communities Prosper

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March 26, 2024

Katrina Kessler, Commissioner
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Support of the Region Nine Development Commission's CPRG Coalition Proposal for Providing Solar on Public Buildings (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

The Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission commits to help develop the Solar for Public Buildings CPRG application to EPA aimed at providing resources and financial assistance for integrating solar energy systems on public buildings for disadvantaged rural Minnesotan communities. Small rural governments have limited funding, staff capacity, and overall lack of resources that hinder their ability to pursue many state and federal resources. The UMRDC and other collaborators are well positioned to offer our support to bridge these gaps.

As a regional development organization, we recognize the significance of renewable energy initiatives in addressing economic, social, and environmental challenges. Our region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) lists specific goals that support our engagement in this initiative.

Identify opportunities to preserve, enhance, sustain, and promote our region's natural resources to increase resource capacity for people & businesses in the region

- *Promote the natural resource amenities in our region*
- *Focus on planning centered around local foods, climate change, and renewable energy to help increase resiliency and sustainability of the region*
- *Increase preservation efforts of our region's natural resources*

Build the energy infrastructure in the region to take advantage of new technology

- *Identify alternative energy resources for communities including financing and planning and construction*
- *Encourage engagement in energy policy*
- *Share information on renewable energy ordinances*
- *Promote the increase of EV charging capacity in the region*

We are dedicated to supporting initiatives that promote equitable access to clean energy resources and enhance the resilience of our rural communities. We firmly believe that the proposed grant application aligns with our mission and strategic objectives, and we are committed to leveraging our resources, expertise, and networks to ensure its success. We intend to sign a formal memorandum of agreement (MOA) and will ensure that our signature is provided prior to MOA submission deadline.

Sincerely,

Dawn Hegland, UMRDC Executive Director