



# Southwest Regional Development Commission

Cottonwood • Jackson • Lincoln • Lyon • Murray • Nobles • Pipestone • Redwood • Rock

21 March 2024

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

RE: Southwest Regional Development Commission, (SRDC) 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,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC), please accept this letter to express SRDC's commitment to supporting and helping develop the Solar for Public Buildings CPRG application aimed at providing resources and financial assistance for integrating solar energy systems on public buildings for disadvantaged rural Minnesotan communities. As a regional development organization deeply invested in the sustainable growth and prosperity of our communities, the SRDC recognizes the significance of renewable energy initiatives in addressing economic, social, and environmental challenges.

The SRDC is a nine-county regional development commission made up of representatives from local units of government and public interest groups in Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock Counties in Minnesota. The SRDC has a long history of renewable energy work, including staffing the Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB), an eighteen county joint powers board that works on renewable energy related policy issues. Together in partnership with the RMEB the SRDC developed the first PACE program in Minnesota.

The integration of solar energy infrastructure holds immense potential to transform the energy landscape of rural Minnesota, particularly for underserved communities facing economic disparities. By harnessing the power of solar technology, we can not only reduce reliance on fossil fuels but also create opportunities for job creation, energy independence, and long-term cost savings. We know the challenges that small rural governments face in independently developing grant applications. Limited funding, staff capacity, and overall lack of resources often hinder their ability to pursue such initiatives effectively. As trusted partners and advocates for rural development, it is imperative that we offer our support to bridge these gaps and empower local stakeholders to access the necessary resources to drive positive change.

The SRDC is dedicated to supporting initiatives that promote equitable access to clean energy resources and enhance the resilience of communities facing socio-economic barriers. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jayme I. Trusty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "J" and "T".

Jayme I. Trusty  
SRDC Executive Director