



March 7, 2024

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

RE: Mid-Minnesota Development Commission's Commitment to and Support of the Region Nine Development Commission's CPRG Coalition Proposal to Add Solar Energy to Public Buildings
(Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Commissioner Kessler, or to Whom It May Otherwise Concern,

My name is Eric Day and I serve as executive director for Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC). MMDC is a regional development commission working to support economic development and improve the standard of living for stakeholders within the four rural Minnesota Counties of Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville.

I am writing to express MMDC's commitment to Region 9 RDC's application for funding to add solar energy generation to public buildings via the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant opportunity. If funded, this project will provide resources and financial assistance to integrate solar energy systems on public buildings for numerous rural Minnesota communities, with a priority to serve those identified as disadvantaged.

As a regional development organization deeply invested in the sustainable growth and prosperity of our communities, MMDC recognizes the potential of renewable energy initiatives to address economic, social, and environmental challenges. By harnessing the power of solar technology, we can reduce reliance on fossil fuels while creating opportunities for employment, energy independence, and long-term taxpayer savings. This while reducing strain on our electricity distribution infrastructure.

MMDC acknowledges that limited funding and staff capacity, as well as an overall lack of resources, often hinder the ability of smaller communities to effectively pursue important funding opportunities. 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. MMDC is dedicated to supporting initiatives that promote equitable access to clean energy resources and enhance the resilience of communities facing socio-economic barriers.

As a member of this coalition, MMDC will work with Region 9 RDC to bring these energy savings opportunities to our local communities by adding solar to public buildings, (e.g. fresh and wastewater treatment plants). We firmly believe that the proposed grant application aligns with our mission and strategic objectives and are committed to leveraging our resources, expertise, and networks to ensure grant success. We intend to sign a formal memorandum of agreement (MOA) to this effect prior to the MOA submission deadline. Thank you for your consideration of the Region 9 Development Commission's CPRG Coalition proposal.

Respectfully,

Eric Day, MMDC Executive Director

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