



ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR

Jerry L. Demings

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March 15, 2024

The Honorable Woody Brown
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

RE: Orange County, FL Letter of Intent to sign the Memorandum of Agreement for the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition.

Dear Mayor Brown:

I am writing to express my community's commitment to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Phase II Implementation of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The TBRPC's proposed "Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition" (SSERC) project reduces greenhouse gas emissions while creating more resilient communities for those most affected by climate change.

Orange County is the fifth most populous county in Florida, and making our community more resilient and reducing our environmental impacts are top priorities. In 2019, I created the Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officer role to facilitate the County's Sustainable Operations and Resilience Action Plan. In addition, the Board of County Commissioners allocated \$100 million to acquire environmentally sensitive lands in our county, updated fertilizer use rules, enhanced tree protections, and set reduction goals for greenhouse gas emissions for our internal operations.

Orange County was a founding member of the Sunshine State Energy Resilience Coalition (SSERC) and is strongly committed to its goals and scope of work. If awarded funding, we will work with the TBRPC, SSERC members, and community partners to ensure the success of the project. The MOA will clearly describe the agreed upon roles, responsibilities, contributions, resources, and commitments each partner will provide to ensure project success and the coalition's operating model and statement of accountability to the U.S. EPA.

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor