

MONONGALIA COUNTY COMMISSION

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Jeffrey L. Arnett, Commissioner
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Telephone: 304 291-7257



March 27, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air and Radiation 6101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Office of Air and Radiation,

On behalf of the Monongalia County Commission, I enthusiastically support the West Virginia Office of Energy's application for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG), under the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency and authorized under Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act. We understand these funds, if awarded, will support several projects and programs that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in West Virginia. The investment will also benefit the community by generating quality local jobs, improving air quality, and enhancing the ability of the energy-driven economy of West Virginia to become more reliable and efficient.

More than 60% of the states census tracts in West Virginia are considered disadvantaged communities as defined by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. Many of those communities are traditional energy communities, based in coal production and associated industries, who have faced tremendous economic and social pressures in the face of national and global shifts in energy consumption. If funded, this effort will ensure these communities directly benefit from this funding, experiencing reduced emissions and sustained economic growth and social stability through growth of industry and workforce development.

The projects and programs proposed will support West Virginia's ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal of 84.7 MMT CO₂e by 2030, which represents a 17.5% reduction from the state's total 2021 GHG emissions. The projects and programs envisioned in this grant application support the state's REAL Energy Policy framework, guaranteeing that energy in West Virginia is reliable, efficient, affordable and local, and demonstrate the state's renewed commitment to managing carbon emissions while embracing the states rich energy resources and knowledgeable workforce.

Specifically, the Energy Audits and Efficiency Upgrades for Government Buildings Program will evaluate hundreds of government buildings and improve the efficiency of energy usage. This program will save costs for the public sector and reduce GHG emissions incrementally year by year, contributing to substantial benefits to the communities. I hope you will favorably consider this funding request.

Warmest regards,

Sean P. Sikora
President
Monongalia County Commission