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29 March 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 West Virginia Office of Energy, I enthusiastically support this office'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 our communities 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 state 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. This proposal ensures these communities directly benefit from the goals of the CPRG program, experiencing reduced emissions, sustained economic growth, and social stability through growth of industry and sustainable, quality jobs.

The projects and programs we propose will advance West Virginia's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 84.7 MMT CO₂e by 2030—a 17.5% reduction from 2021. The proposal accomplishes this by adopting the state's REAL Energy Policy framework: pursuing energy sources in West Virginia that are Reliable, Efficient, Affordable and Local. In doing so, we demonstrate the Mountain State's renewed commitment to managing carbon emissions while embracing our rich energy resources and motivated, knowledgeable workforce.

For these reasons and more, I urge you to favorably consider this funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Preservati".

Nicholas S. Preservati - Director
West Virginia Office of Energy