



State of West Virginia

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

April 1, 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 Department of Commerce, 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 state's rich energy resources and knowledgeable workforce.

I hope you will favorably consider this funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Bailey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James M. Bailey
Cabinet Secretary
WV Department of Commerce