

March 26, 2024

Maria Redmond
Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy
101 E Wilson St
Madison, WI 53703

Subject: Wisconsin Workforce Development Association Letter of Commitment

Dear Ms. Redmond:

The **Wisconsin Workforce Development Association (WWDA)** supports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General application (EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07) submitted by State of Wisconsin Department of Administration through the Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy (OSCE). We are pleased to endorse the OSCE's efforts, as described in this application, to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through implementing measures in the Wisconsin Emissions Reduction Roadmap.

Given Wisconsin's proven success in implementing equitable climate policies, we have full confidence in the OSCE's ability to develop and achieve the objectives laid out in the application and believe they will lead to important emissions reduction while mobilizing collective power to address historic injustice, create new jobs, and spur transformative climate action. The State of Wisconsin, through the OSCE, has a commendable track record of effectively utilizing state and federal grants while actively engaging with low-income and disadvantaged communities. Under the leadership of Governor Tony Evers, and through the OSCE, Wisconsin has demonstrated a strong commitment to achieving economy-wide carbon neutrality.

Throughout the period of this grant, we will work closely with the Wisconsin OSCE to further develop and deliver programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Our organization feels strongly about the need for collective action related to pollution reduction implementation. We recognize there are inherent environmental, health, financial, political, societal, and economic benefits to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our communities. This funding will help Wisconsin rapidly transition to a clean energy economy that benefits all residents in the state.

WWDA is proud to represent all 11 workforce development boards across Wisconsin. As designated by the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA), workforce development boards develop strategies that guide regional efforts in ensuring workers have the skills they need to fill the jobs businesses create, as well as advocate for higher wages for workers, larger profits for businesses and stronger communities for all. Statewide workforce development boards served 5,382 adults, dislocated workers, and youth during the last program year through WIOA. We have the existing infrastructure in place to provide high quality programming to meet the workforce needs of this vital industry.

Workforce development boards have a strong history of administering workforce programs, in addition to WIOA. Throughout the state, boards have established industry and training partnerships allowing for nimble and flexible implementation to meet deliverables. Statewide workforce development boards have seen

On behalf of all 11 Wisconsin Workforce Boards



collective success in implementing the Workforce Advancement Initiative (WAI), ARPA funds awarded to the boards by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD). The flexibility in WAI allowed for boards to serve a broad range of individuals and address specific community workforce needs in an effective way. The Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin utilized WAI funds to leverage resources to support ongoing career pathways work by bridging young adults to careers through subsidized employment, subsidizing wages for pre-apprentice work crews, subsidizing wages for re-entry populations engaged in work-release programs, augmenting traditional on-the-job training engagements with technical skills training, and integrating compensated digital literacy work-and-learn interface in those strategies.

Another example of successful statewide collaboration is the Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training (QUEST) grant, which is designed to assist the childcare industry. Tailoring the grant to meet the specific community's needs for childcare, Workforce Development Boards can capitalize on their established networks to implement training programs to supply the talent pipeline. The Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board has hosted two full cohort trainings with technical college partners for childcare workers to fulfill the need for Lead Teachers and in-home providers in the region. Currently, they are exceeding their goal metrics by 31%. Looking forward to the Green Energy Industry, partnerships are already occurring with workforce boards to discuss the industry's needs. For example, the Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington (WOW) Workforce Development Board is convening industry partners to discuss clean and green jobs.

We are enthusiastic about partnering with the State of Wisconsin to advance the goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through this pivotal program.

Sincerely,



Seth Lentz, Chair
WWDA Executive Committee
slentz@wdbscw.org