



VIRGINIA PORT AUTHORITY
600 World Trade Center, Norfolk, VA 23510
(757)683-8000

March 25, 2024

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
1111 East Main St.
Suite 1400
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Letter of Commitment for the State Transportation Electrification application for a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRG) - EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07

Dear Mr. Dowd,

The Port of Virginia is writing to express their strong support for Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) application for EPA CPRG Implementation grant funds to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, a major source of GHGs in Virginia. As a partnering organization, we commit to implementation of the Port of Virginia's Decarbonization plans in alignment with the technical description detailed in this grant application.

Two years ago, the Port of Virginia made a commitment to become Net-Zero by 2040. For over a decade, the port has been decarbonizing our operations, primarily working in SCOPES 1 and 2, and in January 2024, we became the only port in the United States powered by 100% clean energy. The port currently manages twenty-three state and federal grants and has been successful over the last decade in leveraging grant funds to move our decarbonization commitments forward.

Recent examples of previous funding efforts to support decarbonization include:

- The port entered into a Public-Private Partnership to invest \$320M to add 26 electric rail mounted auto stacking cranes in our container yard and four electric cantilevered rail mounted gantry cranes in our rail yard. This project, completed in 2020, was an expansion of our zero-emissions container handling fleet.
- Securing \$3M in state Carbon Reduction Program funds through the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization to support the deployment of six battery electric utility tractor rigs at the Pinners Point Container Yard;
- The implementation of four battery electric utility tractor rigs and associated charging infrastructure at Norfolk International Terminals through utilization of Volkswagen Settlement funds (\$4M) awarded through the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality;
- Securing several Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) grants over the past decade, most of which went towards the port's hybrid shuttle carrier program. That program concluded this year with the full transition of over 100 diesel straddle carriers to battery electric hybrid shuttle carriers. The new units are 90 – 94% cleaner than the former diesel units and are operating at our two largest container terminals.



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The Port of Virginia understands that we will be both a partner and subrecipient to DEQ if funding for the proposed activities in this application is awarded. Under EPA's CPRG Program, subawards must be consistent with the definition of that term in 2 CFR 200.1 and comply with EPA's Subaward Policy. As a subrecipient the Port of Virginia will be accountable to DEQ entity for proper use of EPA funding and we commit to fulfilling the subaward reporting requirements to DEQ.

We are aware that strong community partnerships and networks are needed to successfully leverage funding through EPA's CPRG implementation grant program to advance critical environmental, climate, and public health solutions across the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are also committed to prioritizing disadvantaged and underserved communities within the Commonwealth of Virginia and throughout the implementation of this grant.

Should this funding request be successful, we look forward to working with you on this valuable project beginning December 2024. We remain available to provide additional assistance as needed and appreciate our partnership with the VA DEQ team.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Edwards
CEO and Executive Director