



THE SENATE PRESIDENT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

DON HARMON

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OAK PARK, ILLINOIS 60302
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April 17, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
EPA Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

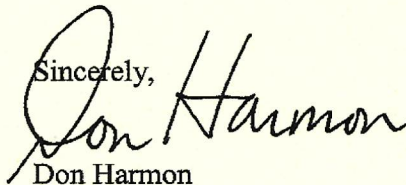
Dear Administrator Regan:

I write in support of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) in their application for Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation funding of **\$375 million for the *Transforming Transit: Accelerating a Zero-Emission Fleet in the Chicago Region* initiative**. The Chicago region transit network provides over 1.2 million rides per day, including within the 39th district that I am privileged to represent in the Illinois Senate.

RTA's project will build on ongoing regional collaboration to reduce emissions, enhance bus and train service, and grow ridership. With CPRG funding for *Transforming Transit*, the RTA will work with the 1) Chicago Transit Authority to purchase up to fifty 60-foot articulated buses and two charging cabinets supporting up to 40 pantograph chargers for routes originating on Chicago's Far Southeast Side, 2) bus provider Pace to purchase up to eighty-three 40-foot buses to be deployed in communities vulnerable to pollution and air quality issues and, 3) commuter rail provider Metra to purchase 32 trailer cars and 8 docking stations that will allow Metra to retire 16 of its oldest diesel locomotives and add service on three high-ridership lines:

In keeping with the Biden Administration's Justice 40 Initiative, the RTA, CTA, Metra, and Pace have committed to prioritizing investments in historically disadvantaged areas. This project will make significant progress on the region's goals to decrease the environmental footprint of the transportation sector and move toward a more sustainable network while prioritizing communities burdened by poor air quality.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Don Harmon