

## **Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Resolution**

Whereas, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission desires to improve energy efficiency, energy conservation and related economic activity and job creation in the region; and

Whereas, the HRPDC desires to encourage programs which will improve programs and initiatives to improve energy efficiency, energy conservation and related economic activity and job creation in the region; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory has issued Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: DE-FOA-0000251, CFDA Number: 81.041 State Energy Program (SEP) Strengthening Building Retrofit Markets and Stimulating Energy Efficiency Action Competitive Solicitation which will fund programs to advance policies, programs, and market strategies that accelerate job creations and reduce energy bills while achieving energy and climate security for the nation; and

Whereas the SEP Grants Program Area of Interest 1 – Strengthening Building Retrofit Markets are for programs ranging in value from a minimum of \$2,000,000 to a maximum of \$5,000,000 per state and do not require cost sharing from state or local government; and

Whereas, the DOE will only award 10 grants nationwide making this a highly competitive grant process; and

Whereas, the SEP Grants Program Area of Interest 1 – Strengthening Building Retrofit Markets specifically seeks to stimulate activities and investments which can:

- Provide a major increase in market penetration of existing whole-building retrofit activities and/or the establishment of a strong retrofit market in areas with little or no activity;
- Address market barriers that limit whole-building retrofits and requires a minimum target of retrofitting at least 2 percent of the buildings of a defined market annually by 2013;
- Utilize regional strategies;
- Develop new or strengthen existing building retrofit market(s) by creating, enhancing, or expanding replicable programs, activities, organizational structures, and techniques that will transform the market and encourage consumer adoption of energy efficiency and clean energy;
- Employ sound methods for assuring energy savings;
- Collaborate with appropriate organizations such as public utility commissions, power authorities, utilities, local governments, retailers, manufacturers, trade organizations, financial institutions, other States and regional entities;

- Develop strategies that will allow resource leveraging to the greatest possible extent
- Pursue comprehensive programs and strategies that address the range of barriers hindering building retrofits such as; consumer access to information about how a building consumes energy and how it compares to other buildings; developing a qualified workforce to diagnose building performance problems, recommend solutions to those problems, and perform the work necessary to deliver the recommended solutions; and readily available access to funding to pay for the retrofits through a variety of financial mechanisms;
- Develop a comprehensive approach to addressing the market barriers limiting whole-building retrofits with a **target of retrofitting at least 2 percent of the buildings of a defined market annually by 2013** which may include such key elements as:
  - Building performance benchmarking and disclosure
  - Home Performance with ENERGY STAR™
  - Finance programs or strategies that leverage private capital:
    - Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)
    - Utility On-Bill Financing
    - Energy Savings Performance Contracts
    - Revolving Loan Funds
    - Credit Enhancements such as Loan Loss Reserves and Debt Service Reserves\*
    - Other innovative financing mechanisms
  - Financing program(s) that are designed to meet appropriate conforming standards to support sales into secondary financial markets
  - Statewide and/or regional\*\* aggregation of disaggregated retrofit markets
  - Innovative Organizational Structures such as an Energy Efficiency Utility, Power Authority, etc; and

Whereas, the mission of the State Energy Program is to provide leadership to maximize the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy through communications and outreach activities, technology deployment, and accessing new partnerships and resources; and

Whereas, eligible entities include State Energy Offices and partnerships they may form; and,

Whereas, the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) is leading a multi-state application including Virginia, Oregon, Washington, Massachusetts, Alabama and Georgia; and

Whereas, the Green Jobs Alliance and the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) have has been invited by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy (DMME) and NASEO to represent Virginia and Hampton Roads for the purposes of this grant application along with other organizations in other regions of the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, a broad alliance of organizational partners have been assembled by the Green Jobs Alliance, a legally registered 501c3 not-for-profit meeting the eligibility guidelines of this grant; and

Whereas, the Green Jobs Alliance was organized for the specific purpose of seeking and administering federal grant funds for “green” economic activity and workforce training for the Hampton Roads region and Commonwealth of Virginia and has been officially designated by the Commonwealth of Virginia as a State Energy Training Partner as required by federal law, and

Whereas, the Green Jobs Alliance has successfully represented the localities of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission is securing DOE Ramp-Up Through Retrofit Grant funds; and

Whereas, support of the local governments in the region of the grant application is viewed by DOE as an important element of the grant application; and

Whereas, time is of the essence as the DOE the grant application is due 5/24/10;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Hampton Roads Planning Commission does hereby encourage and support the efforts of NASEO, SEEA and the Green Jobs Alliance<sup>2</sup>s efforts in pursuing the SEP Grants Program Area of Interest 1 – Strengthening Building Retrofit Markets for the benefit of the Hampton Roads region and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT

[Date]

David Terry  
Executive Director  
National Association of State Energy Officials  
1414 Prince Street, Suite 200  
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Letter of Support for NASEO Multi-state Application to the DOE for State Energy Program Funds (DE-FOA-0000251)

Dear Mr. Terry:

It is our pleasure to submit this letter of support to the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) for the proposed multi-state application for SEP funds under FOA # DE-FOA-0000251.

We support the cohesive approach of the proposed model and see true value in the planned activities. The FOA foresees identifying best practices in participating states; creating a tiered and tailored approach to encourage increased retrofit activities; replicating the selected model in targeted communities, and taking advantage of the common theme of enabling legislation in each state. Overall, NASEO is the ideal organization to take the applied model(s) proposed under this FOA and deploy them at scale in states across the country. This would satisfy the unique requirement from U.S. DOE to introduce fundamental and permanent market transformation across all sectors of the economy and we applaud this effort. We will work directly with the Green Jobs Alliance (GJA) and the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) in Virginia to ensure we have a dedicated organization to oversee and implement our programs.

The proposed NASEO model is based on consumer engagement, energy audits and labeling, workforce training, financial programs, and legislative support. We, GJA and SEEA plan to work closely with our stakeholders to share best practices to enhance the multi-state approach.

We look forward to working with you and the partner communities within Virginia on the strategies and mechanisms that will transform the clean energy environment and treat energy efficiency as an energy resource while creating green jobs.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this unique response and value NASEO's leadership role in this industry.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Title]