



September 9, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) fully supports the **Creating a Legacy of Equity + Access to a Network of EV Resources in North Carolina (CLEANER NC)** application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT's) 2024 Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Community Grant Program. This Project will deliver two new EV charging stations with a total of four Level 2 ports and four Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) ports at Elizabeth City State University (ECSU). This investment will implement convenient, reliable, affordable, and equitable EV charging infrastructure, with a focus on addressing environmental justice in disadvantaged rural communities and mitigating safety risks in alignment with the National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS). CLEANER NC builds upon the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) current partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in North Carolina, led by the Office of HBCU Outreach, and will identify solutions to the unique challenges faced by HBCUs when implementing new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, such as aging infrastructure, limited budgets, and socioeconomic factors. In doing so, CLEANER NC will equitably expand community-based EV charging to accelerate the electrification of North Carolina's transportation system, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthen the partnership between NCDOT and HBCUs to enhance the inclusivity and diversity of North Carolina's clean transportation workforce. ECSU commits \$162,854 (2024\$) toward the CLEANER NC program if successful in securing this CFI Community Grant.

Thank you for your consideration of the CLEANER NC pilot program for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Community Grant Program. If ECSU can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 252-567-8608 or via email at restrickland@ecsuh.edu. We are eager to move forward with the Project and look forward to the opportunity to bring new EV charging infrastructure to our university and community.

Sincerely,

Ryan Strickland
Assistant Vice Chancellor of Design and Construction

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ECSU is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina.