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April 12th, 2018

Privy Council Office
Attn: Impact and Innovation Unit
Room 1000
85 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A3

Re: Support for Town of Bridgewater Smart Cities Challenge Grant Application

To the Smart Cities Challenge jury panel,

This is a letter confirming the full support and confidence of Clean Foundation in the Town of Bridgewater to address energy poverty by pursuing the Smart Cities Challenge grant.

Clean is a non-profit charitable organization that provides the knowledge, tools and inspiration needed to encourage the actions that lead in positive environmental change. We work for a clean climate and clean water – and to help reach these goals, we foster and support clean leaders.

We have delivered successive versions of home energy retrofit programs for low-income residences in Nova Scotia since 2006. Adding social dimensions to environmental efforts – for example, HomeWarming, which is as much about energy affordability and air quality as it is about reducing environmental footprints – is an increasingly critical part of Clean Foundation's mandate.

The issue of energy poverty is very serious and urgent for the community of Bridgewater. It is tied into so many other social problems, including mental and physical disability, aging, and chronic disease. The lack of a safe, secure, and affordable home can complicate these challenges. It is also connected to other issues such as food security.

Clean has a deep relationship with the Town of Bridgewater, forged through the Clean Energy Financing program, and the Clean Net Zero pilot. Clean has also been involved in Energize Nova Scotia, and is an enthusiastic supporter of the town's plans for clean energy and greenhouse gas reductions.

Clean is confident in the ability of the Town of Bridgewater to effectively coordinate and work openly and transparently with multiple partner organizations to implement any programs or solutions that can be funded by the Smart Cities Challenge grant.

A community-wide energy poverty initiative could help Bridgewater residents and the community as a whole, through improved energy affordability, improved housing conditions, inclusion and empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable families, new economic opportunities, and increased environmental quality.

As a municipal leader in the Atlantic Region on energy efficiency, the trailblazing efforts of the Town of Bridgewater already helps other communities in the region and across the country by providing an example of how communities can work to address energy efficiency issues. The Smart Cities Challenge Grant will allow them to become a leader in addressing energy poverty as well.

Clean is pleased to be part of this initiative, and confident that winning the Smart Cities Challenge grant would be a major contribution toward reducing energy poverty in Bridgewater.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Skinner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Skinner
Executive Director