



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

February 20, 2024

Austin Nunez
Chair, U.S. Governmental Advisory Committee
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Dear Mr. Nunez:

On behalf of the U.S. Council member to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), Administrator Michael S. Regan, thank you for the Governmental Advisory Committee's (GAC) January 19, 2024, advice letter resulting from the December 7th GAC meeting. We appreciate the GAC's commitment to undertaking your charge and providing us with your comprehensive advice on exemplary cities in North America with strong climate governance, nature-based solutions, environmental justice engagement and promotion of Indigenous engagement and leadership.

I am pleased to offer the following responses to the GAC's recommendations on the charge questions:

(1) Exemplary North American Cities

Thank you for your advice regarding cities with successful climate governance advancing urban climate adaptation, including Nashville, TN, San Francisco, CA, El Paso, TX, and Houston, TX, and including brief explanations of what makes them exemplary in implementing successful climate adaptation practices.

We also appreciate your advice regarding Portland, OR, Mexico City, Mexico, and El Paso, TX, as examples of cities that employ successful nature-based solutions to increase community resilience. In addition, thank you for identifying Providence, RI, as a city with a Climate Justice Plan addressing environmental justice by working with communities.

As a next step, we will provide your input to the steering committee developing the project description for this initiative. They will consider these recommendations as they design the city pairs based on the specific needs and challenges faced by the three countries.

(2) Considerations in Selecting Cities

Thank you for noting the limitations of the focus on urban areas as it relates to the inclusion of tribes, as well as your recommendation that we consider creating other categories of communities and smaller cities that may have implemented successful relevant solutions. While

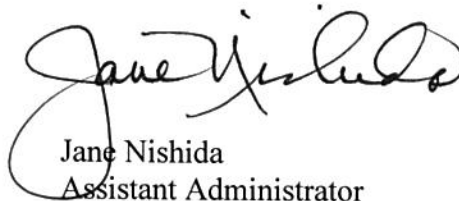
the scope of this initiative focuses on urban locations, we will consider your advice as we design and implement other projects and initiatives under the CEC.

(3) Existing Funding and Partnership Development

Thank you for your identifying organizations we could learn from, such as the U.S. Climate Alliance, the Resilient Cities Network and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, as we consider establishing partnerships under this initiative. We also appreciate your recommendation that cities are paired based on population size, political structures, and location, while understanding the competitive nature of the funding environment. We will share this information with the steering committee for their consideration.

Thank you again for your thoughtful advice on the CEC's city pairing initiative. We appreciate the GAC's knowledge and understanding on these topics and look forward to continued cooperation for the benefit of the North American environment.

Sincerely,



Jane Nishida
Assistant Administrator