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VICE RANKING MEMBER

February 12, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to support a dynamic and impactful partnership between the Minneapolis American Indian Center (MAIC) and Sabathani Community Center (SCC). The Minneapolis BIPOC Climate Resilience Partnership combines the two largest historical cultural community destinations in South Minneapolis, each located on Cultural Corridors designated by the City of Minneapolis, to build resilience in our region's most diverse and climate-impacted neighborhoods.

MAIC and SCC have been identified as Resilience Hubs critical to building a coordinated plan to address the impacts of climate change and to create community readiness to respond to future natural and man-made crises. SCC serves the largest historically Black neighborhoods in Minneapolis, and MAIC serves the largest urban American Indian population in the country. Recent examples of the importance of these two legacy organizations includes their response to the civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd and how they served as critical resources throughout the pandemic.

To ensure a strong South Minneapolis, critical investments in MAIC and SCC are underway. This includes updating the infrastructure, systems, and carbon footprint of the 250,000+ square feet of their combined facilities, as well as the parking, green space, and community areas surrounding their buildings. These projects are a generational opportunity to add high-efficiency, sustainable systems that will protect their buildings and their communities from future climate crises.

An EPA Community Change Grant will support the addition of geothermal, solar, and high-efficiency HVAC and lighting systems – strengthening the resilience of MAIC and SCC, and strengthening the resilience of an area that is home to low-income communities disproportionately impacted by climate change. The Minneapolis BIPOC Climate Resilience Partnership is an investment in our future and can be a model for other communities to address long-term resilience to climate change.

Sincerely,

ILHAN OMAR
Member of Congress