

Thomas A. Smith
Commissioner

Daniel W. Akin
Commissioner



Julie C. Wilkins
Commissioner

Hilda L. Zimmerly
Commissioner

David A. Lyons
Mayor

July 6, 2016
FD 2016-540

The Solar Foundation
600 14th St NW #400
Washington, DC 2005

Dear Mr. Philip Haddix:

This letter is in support of the City of LaBelle's participation in the Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities (SPARC) program. The city considered and approved submitting this application early in 2016. Unfortunately due to short staffing, we were not able to complete the process.

As a SPARC designated community the City of LaBelle would benefit from the technical assistance to develop a solar market and local ordinances and policies to encourage the use of solar energy by local residents and businesses. We commit to tracking the number and capacity of installed Photovoltaic (PV) Systems within the city.

The City of LaBelle was designated as part of a Promise Zone in the most recent round of federal designations. Since that time, the City has been working to implement new and innovative programs and projects to encourage economic growth and create stronger relationships and cooperation between community organizations, local leadership, and the federal government.

A part of our strategy is to reduce energy costs for residents, businesses, and the City. Most Hendry County and LaBelle residents have lower incomes. We also suffer from some of the highest unemployment rates in the state. Reducing their energy costs will allow our residents to have more personal resources for other basic living expenses.

The City of LaBelle is looking forward to working with the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative as a SPARC community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D Lyons", is written over the word "Sincerely," and extends down towards the name "David A. Lyons, Mayor".

David A. Lyons, Mayor

City of LaBelle

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