

GREAT LAKES BUSINESS NETWORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022

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The Inflation Reduction Act is an important step forward to combat climate change. The Great Lakes Business Network is proud of the work that its partner organizations have done to advocate for the climate provisions of this important bill.

“Focusing on a cleaner energy future will benefit local economies across the nation – especially here in the Great Lakes where we have over twenty percent of the world’s surface freshwater,” said **Bob Sutherland, President of Cherry Republic** and Co-Chair of the Great Lakes Business Network.

The bill promises carbon reduction benefits and vital tax credit for families who want to invest in clean energy, and funding allocated to reduce air and water pollution. Businesses in the Great Lakes region stand to benefit from the available funds allocated for clean energy and energy efficiency advancements. However, the Great Lakes Business Network recognizes that the bill fails to adequately fund many climate provisions at the level necessary to combat the climate crisis. It also places the onus on community and state leaders to allocate the funding in ways that prioritize frontline communities and center equity and justice. While this legislation represents an important first step, it does not go far enough.

“We know that there is still work to be done when it comes to fossil fuels,” said Juliet King McAvoy, **Vice President of Sales and Marketing for King Orchards** and Co-Chair of the Great Lakes Business Network. *“We won’t stop advocating for a just transition to a green economy, but this is certainly a big step in the right direction.”*

The Inflation Reduction Act includes major allocations that will address the climate crisis, including more than \$20 billion for agriculture conservation to reduce greenhouse emissions while improving soil carbon management; \$3 billion in funding to address harmful pollution and emissions and improve air quality, particularly in disproportionately impacted BIPOC communities; and investments to lower costs for families including tax credits towards a clean energy economy.

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