

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

March 24, 2022

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree:

As you begin crafting the fiscal year 2024 Interior, Environment, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$5,000,000 for the Grinnell Century-Old Water Facility Replacement project at 702 Main Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112 as a community project funding request through the EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund account. The intended recipient is the City of Grinnell, located at 520 4th Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

The City of Grinnell is in desperate need of an upgraded water facility to ensure the health and safety of over 9,000 residents. The city's current wastewater facility is over 100 years old, meaning that in many circumstances, repairs to the facility are no longer practical. The city's current water plant is unreliable, lacks back up power, has antiquated technology, and ineffectively treats the area's hard raw water. The community has long endured poor water quality due to the high amounts of calcium and magnesium, and iron, which are natural minerals in its raw water supply.

Grinnell residents are especially reliant on effective drinking water treatment to protect their water quality. Due to characteristics in the city's source water, Grinnell must provide treatment for radium due to presence in the city's source water and the increased risk of cancer and congenital defects that comes with chronic exposure. The current Grinnell water treatment facility has experienced failure in portions of the existing treatment process, including its radium removal process equipment, necessitating water treatment facility improvements to provide improved and redundant finished water treatment.

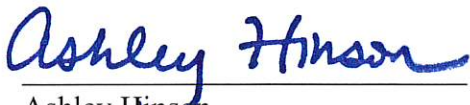
The City of Grinnell plans to use these funds to construct a new water treatment facility to replace their current operation. These will be used to support its \$35.8 million Phase 1 improvement project, which includes new supply wells, water storage facilities, water transmission mains, and other distribution improvements. Specifically, funding awarded through

this request would be used to construct a new membrane water treatment plant and a new water supply well immediately adjacent to the new water plant, some of the most vital needs for Grinnell's wastewater treatment.

Without additional support, the essential water utility infrastructure projects would add a significant burden to Grinnell's residents, increasing water rates by roughly 100% over the next 5 years. These funds would help reduce the impact of the necessary water rate increases for the city's significant low- to moderate-income rural population.

I strongly urge the Committee to include this community project funding request in the FY24 Interior, Environment, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Ashley Hinson

Member of Congress

Committee on Appropriations