

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

March 24, 2023

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 \$2,800,000 for the Mason City Water Infrastructure Expansion Project at 1035 43rd St SW, Mason City, Iowa 50401 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 Mason City, located at 10 1st St NW, Mason City, Iowa 50401.

Mason City is the county seat of Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, and is home to nearly 30,000 residents. The City is home to several major employers in the health, financial services, and agriculture industries, and continues to attract interested developers considering bringing their industries to the city. In particular, Mason City's southwest industrial area holds significant potential to be an economic driver for the city and region as a whole, as employers develop large parcels of land to bring new opportunities to the community. Located near robust highway and rail systems, Mason City's industrial area continues to attract significant interest from developers.

The growth of heavy industry throughout Mason City has significantly increased the demand for large quantities of water. In the near term, the city anticipates several large water users to locate in the southwest quadrant of the city. To accommodate the additional demand and enable this economic development growth, the city's water distribution system must be expanded and extended through strategic planning and construction of new water distribution mains.

The City of Mason City plans to use these funds to expand its water infrastructure to reach a large economic development area on the southwest side of the city. Through the recent efforts of the city, several large-scale project options have been identified to support the much-needed water demands. One of those projects, the Taft Avenue Loop, is in the immediate planning stage

with funds already allocated for design. The construction and installation of the \$3.5 million water main loop will be completed in the following year.

The Mason City Water Infrastructure Expansion Project will provide essential improvements for established business and industrial facilities in Mason City and establish a new distribution main to open up opportunity for further economic development in the city. By improving and expanding its water infrastructure, Mason City will be able to meet the demand of these new facilities, bringing new jobs and economic opportunities to the region.

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