

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

April 27, 2022

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

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

Dear Chair Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce:

As you begin crafting the fiscal year 2023 FY23 Interior, Environment, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$1,000,000 in community project funding for the Granger Creek Lift Station at the City of Dubuque's Catfish Creek Sanitary Sewer System, located at 50 W. 13th Street, Dubuque, IA 52001.

Dubuque is one of Iowa's oldest cities; it flourished in the early Twentieth Century, then experienced an exodus of residents in the 1980s. Community leaders have come together in recent decades to redevelop the city, create economic opportunity for businesses and local industry, repopulate the community, and bring families back to Dubuque. The city has successfully fostered economic opportunities in the area, particularly by recruiting and retaining businesses.

The City of Dubuque must now meet increasing waste demands as a result of its successful revitalization campaign. Specifically, the expansion of Hormel Foods Processing and the addition of the Simmons Pet Food Corporation to the city have attracted many new employees as well as a waste-heavy industry, compounding the amount of waste entering the Catfish Creek Sanitary Sewer System that first opened in 1958. The resulting strain on the existing, outdated sanitary sewer system has exponentially increased at a rate the city is unable to handle without federal support.

In 2014, the Catfish Creek Lift Station struggled to manage excess flows, leading to prolonged sewer overflows. Overflows requiring emergency bypass pumping have been necessary every year since 2014. In 2021, a clogged sewer line caused severe overflow into a populous street and the storm sewer system and posed a health risk to children, pets, and all other residents.

The Granger Creek Lift Station project is the first phase in Dubuque's larger Catfish Creek Sanitary Sewer System improvement plan. Adding the Granger Creek Lift Station would increase the capacity of the sewer system and help reduce and prevent future sanitary sewer overflows. This lift station would allow Dubuque to safeguard the community's health and enable access to a functioning sanitation system without requiring new pipes and drilling. This is the most cost-efficient option for addressing the sewer system's challenges. Increasing the city's sewage capacity would also enable Dubuque to continue recruiting more businesses and pursuing economic expansion.

This overall project has been identified as one of the Dubuque City Council's top priorities for 2021 and 2022, demonstrating the immediate need for these upgrades. I strongly urge the Committee to include this community project funding request in the FY23 Interior, Environment, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Ashley Hinson

Member of Congress

Committee on Appropriations