

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

May 2, 2025

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:

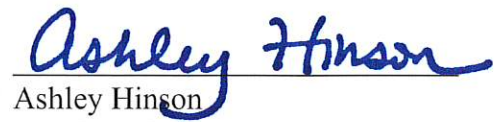
As you begin crafting the fiscal year 2026 Interior, Environment, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$4,000,000 for the Independence Wastewater Treatment Plant Replacement Project as a community project funding request through the EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grant, Clean Water State Revolving Fund account. The intended recipient is the City of Independence, located at 331 1st Street East, Independence, Iowa 50644. This project would take place at 2018 Three Elms Park Road, Independence, Iowa 50644.

These funds will support the City of Independence's efforts to modernize the community's wastewater treatment plant, which was initially constructed in the 1970s. While the existing facility has undergone rehabilitation efforts, Independence faces challenges meeting the needs of clean water for the growing community. Outdated infrastructure within the city's existing treatment facility has led to challenges complying with higher water quality standards. Infrastructure improvements are particularly crucial to preserve waterways in the region as the city's plant discharges water into the Wapsipinicon River, a tributary of the Mississippi River.

With this funding, Independence can make critical improvements to meet state and federal requirements to protect public health and the environment. This project would include upgrades at multiple phases of the treatment process, including enhanced pretreatment, advanced biological treatment to remove nutrients, and a new anaerobic digestion process to significantly reduce sludge volume. These combined efforts will ensure Independence's 6,000 residents continue to have access to safe drinking water, reduce pollution in local waterways, and result in long-term savings for taxpayers by extending the lifespan of the community's existing facility.

I strongly urge the Committee to include this community project funding request in the FY26 Interior, Environment, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Hinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ashley" and the last name "Hinson" clearly distinguishable.

Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress
Committee on Appropriations