



City of Bellevue
115 E Pine Street
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PO Bellevue, ID 83313
208-788-2128 Fax 208-788-2092
www.bellevueidaho.us

03/21/2024

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

I was appointed Mayor of Bellevue in August 2023 and upon winning the November election I continue to serve and support the City of Bellevue. Having served on the City Council since 2020 I have been pushing the need for improvements to our city's water and wastewater systems. I also work for Idaho Rural Water Association and fully understand the challenges communities all around our state face with their infrastructure and funding needs.

I am writing today to express my support for the City of Bellevue's water improvements project which will return our public water system back to regulatory compliance. In 2021, the city received a Sanitary Survey from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) identifying several significant deficiencies requiring corrective action including the need for a new source of supply and protection of source water from containment vulnerabilities. The deficiencies identified include potential exposure of various contamination sources infiltrating the groundwater supply, which could lead to total coliform bacterial outputs in the drinking water supply. This bacterium can lead to impacts to the general public's digestive system, while severe impacts, that could be chronic (or even fatal) can occur in those individuals with compromised immune systems.

Subsequently, the city entered into a state-approved corrective action plan (CAP) that anticipated an improvements project modifying the system to achieve Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Systems (IDAPA), 58.01.08. In addition, on February 4th, 2022, the IDEQ and the City entered into a Compliance Agreement Schedule (CAS) that required improvements within a certain timeframe.

In response, the City prepared and was priority ranked on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). However, the proposed loan portion offered is simply unaffordable for our most vulnerable community members who struggle to pay for other basic needs. Therefore, any federal support supplied towards the project would reduce the City's need to take on massive debt, providing critical and necessary improvements in furtherance of affordability, public health and safety, and environmental compliance.

Thank you for representing the great state of Idaho and your representation of small communities like ours. I appreciate your consideration in providing much needed support for the City of Bellevue's drinking water project.

Sincerely,

Chris Johnson
Mayor
City of Bellevue

Kathryn Goldman

PO Box 824 | Bellevue, Idaho 83313

March 22, 2024

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Rayburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman:

As a former Mayor of Bellevue, Idaho and a 20-year resident of the City, I strongly support improvements to Bellevue's drinking water system. In 2021, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) provided the City of Bellevue with the results of their sanitary survey, which identified significant deficiencies in the City's water system. Subsequently, the City entered into a state-approved corrective action plan (CAP) that anticipates modifications to the system to bring the City in to compliance with Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Systems (IDAPA), 58.01.08. As Mayor, I signed a compliance agreement schedule with DEQ, requiring the improvements in a specific timeframe. These improvements will cost nearly \$10 million.

Following the City's acknowledgement of the water system's deficiencies, the City prepared a plan to make improvements and submitted a request for funding to the DEQ. Bellevue received a funding package, including a \$3.3 million grant through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), which requires the City to pass a revenue bond of approximately \$7 million to secure the grant and ensure the improvements. The required bond would increase the current \$35 per month city water rate by \$31 dollars, nearly doubling the monthly cost to residents.

Many of Bellevue's residents struggle to pay for basic needs, making this increase unaffordable. Therefore, Mayor Chris Johnson and the current City Council President are working hard to identify federal support for the project that would reduce the City's required debt, lessen the water rate increase, and ensure the City does not lose the \$3.3 million in grant funding. This funding will help the city protect public health and our water quality, while meeting existing government regulations. The City has additional needs for sewer system repairs which will also require bonding in the near future. Funding from the federal level now for the water system will help our community navigate the needs and funding decisions as we move forward in improving Bellevue's infrastructure to meet state standards.

Thank you for representing Idaho and communities like ours. I appreciate your consideration in providing much-needed support for the City of Bellevue's drinking water project.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Goldman

Bellevue resident and former Mayor of Bellevue



March 20, 2024

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Community Project Funding for City of Bellevue, Idaho

Dear Congressman Simpson,

Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) is an association of drinking water and wastewater utility systems whose mission is to provide technical assistance, training, and a strong representative voice for the benefit of Idaho's drinking water and wastewater utility systems. IRWA represents over 350 drinking water and wastewater utility systems throughout the state. Our field staff support nearly every community in Idaho through technical assistance and training on a regular basis.

Across Idaho, we see rural communities struggle with the challenge of maintaining aging and failing infrastructure. As you are aware, Idaho's rural communities are the fabric of Idaho, and they play a large role in making Idaho a desired place to live, work, and play. I am writing today to express IRWA's support for the City of Bellevue's water improvements project which will return their public water system back to regulatory compliance.

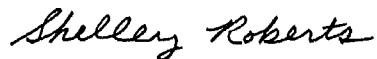
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Subsequently, the City entered into a state-approved corrective action plan (CAP) that anticipated an improvements project modifying the system to achieve Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Systems (IDAPA), 58.01.08. In addition, on February 4th, 2022, the IDEQ and the City entered into a Compliance Agreement Schedule (CAS) that required improvements within a certain timeframe.

In response, the City prepared and was priority ranked on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). However, the proposed loan portion offered is simply unaffordable for the most vulnerable community members who struggle to pay for other basic needs. Therefore, any federal support supplied towards the project would reduce the City's need to take on massive debt, providing critical and necessary improvements in furtherance of affordability, public health and safety, and environmental compliance.

Thank you for representing the great state of Idaho and your representation of small communities like Bellevue's. We appreciate your consideration in providing much needed support for the City of Bellevue's drinking water project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelley Roberts".

Shelley Roberts
Chief Executive Officer

THE HUNGER COALITION

Building community through food

March 18, 2024

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

We are writing today to express our support for the City of Bellevue's water improvements project which will return our public water system back to regulatory compliance. As one of the largest employers and water users in Bellevue, we are intimately aware of the struggles that our small city is facing with its municipal water system. At our Bloom Community Food Center in Bellevue, we have hundreds of families coming through our doors every week seeking food assistance and accessing critical resources. Many of the families we serve are residents of Bellevue who would directly benefit from the federal funding the City is seeking.

As you may know, the City received a Sanitary Survey from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) in 2021 identifying several significant deficiencies requiring corrective action including the need for a new source of supply and protection of source water from containment vulnerabilities. The deficiencies identified include potential exposure of various contamination sources infiltrating the groundwater supply, which could lead to total coliform bacterial outputs in the drinking water supply. This bacterium can lead to impacts to the general public's digestive system, while severe impacts, that could be chronic (or even fatal) can occur in those individuals with compromised immune systems.

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In response, the City prepared and was priority ranked on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). However, the proposed loan portion offered is simply unaffordable for our most vulnerable community members who struggle to pay for other basic needs. Therefore, any federal support supplied towards the project would reduce the City's need to take on massive debt, providing critical and necessary improvements in furtherance of affordability, public health and safety, and environmental compliance.

We urge you to help us take care of our Bellevue families by providing much needed support for the City's drinking water project. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Brooke Pace McKenna
Co-Executive Director



Naomi Spence
Co-Executive Director



March 19, 2024

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

I am writing on behalf of the Blaine County Recreation District (BCRD), headquartered in Hailey, Idaho. BCRD provides healthy, active, and diverse recreational opportunities for our community and the area's many visitors. BCRD works closely with the City of Bellevue to ensure we provide high quality recreation opportunities for its residents. As the City continues to grow so does demand for viable parks and recreation facilities.

BCRD supports the City of Bellevue's water improvement project which will return Bellevue's public water system back to regulatory compliance. In 2021, the City received a Sanitary Survey from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) identifying several significant deficiencies requiring corrective action including the need for a new source of supply and protection of source water from containment vulnerabilities. The deficiencies identified include potential exposure of various contamination sources infiltrating the groundwater supply, which could lead to total coliform bacterial outputs threatening the drinking water supply.

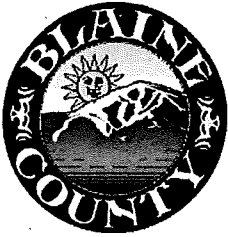
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In response, the City prepared and was priority ranked on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). However, the proposed loan portion offered is simply unaffordable for our most vulnerable community members who struggle to pay for other basic needs. Therefore, any federal support supplied towards the project would reduce the City's need to take on massive debt, providing critical and necessary improvements in furtherance of affordability, public health and safety, and environmental compliance.

Thank you for representing the great state of Idaho and your representation of small communities like Bellevue. We appreciate your consideration in providing much needed support for the City of Bellevue's drinking water project.

Sincerely,

Mark Davidson
Executive Director
Blaine County Recreation District



THE BOARD OF BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

206 FIRST AVENUE SOUTH, SUITE 300

HAILEY, IDAHO 83333

PHONE: (208) 788-5500 FAX: (208) 788-5569

www.blainecounty.org bcc@co.blaine.id.us

Muffy Davis, Chair * Angenie McCleary, Vice-Chair * Lindsay Mollineaux, Commissioner

March 18, 2024

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

I am writing today to express my support for the City of Bellevue's water improvements project which will return our public water system back to regulatory compliance. In 2021, the City received a Sanitary Survey from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) identifying several significant deficiencies requiring corrective action including the need for a new source of supply and protection of source water from containment vulnerabilities. The deficiencies identified include potential exposure of various contamination sources infiltrating the groundwater supply, which could lead to total coliform bacterial outputs in the drinking water supply. This bacterium can lead to impacts to the general public's digestive system, while severe impacts, that could be chronic (or even fatal) can occur in those individuals with compromised immune systems.

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In response, the City prepared and was priority ranked on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). However, the proposed loan portion offered is simply unaffordable for our most vulnerable community members who struggle to pay for other basic needs. Therefore, any federal support supplied towards the project would reduce the City's need to take on massive debt, providing critical and necessary improvements in furtherance of affordability, public health and safety, and environmental compliance.

Thank you for representing the great state of Idaho and your representation of small communities like ours. I appreciate your consideration in providing much needed support for the City of Bellevue's drinking water project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muffy Davis".

Muffy Davis
Chair



CITY OF KETCHUM | MAYOR

Neil Bradshaw | Mayor
direct: 208.721.2162 | office: 208.726.7803
nbradshaw@ketchumidaho.org
P.O. Box 2315, 191 5th Street West, Ketchum, ID 83340
ketchumidaho.org

March 19, 2024

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

Please support our neighbor in the Wood River Valley as they seek to improve their water infrastructure.

I am writing today to express my support for the City of Bellevue's water improvements project which will return its public water system back to regulatory compliance. In 2021, the City of Bellevue received a Sanitary Survey from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) identifying several significant deficiencies requiring corrective action including the need for a new source of supply and protection of source water from containment vulnerabilities. The deficiencies identified include potential exposure of various contamination sources infiltrating the groundwater supply, which could lead to total coliform bacterial outputs in the drinking water supply. This bacterium can lead to impacts to the general public's digestive system, while severe impacts, that could be chronic (or even fatal) can occur in those individuals with compromised immune systems.

Subsequently, the City of Bellevue entered a state-approved corrective action plan (CAP) that anticipated an improvements project modifying the system to achieve Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Systems (IDAPA), 58.01.08. In addition, on February 4th, 2022, the IDEQ and the City entered into a Compliance Agreement Schedule (CAS) that required improvements within a certain timeframe.

In response, the City of Bellevue prepared and was priority ranked on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). However, the proposed loan portion offered is simply unaffordable to many vulnerable community members who struggle to pay for other basic needs. Therefore, any federal support supplied towards the project would reduce the City of Bellevue's need to take on massive debt, providing critical and necessary improvements in furtherance of affordability, public health and safety, and environmental compliance.

Thank you for representing the great state of Idaho and your representation of small communities like ours. I appreciate your consideration in providing much needed support for the City of Bellevue's drinking water project.

Sincerely,

Neil Bradshaw
Mayor, City of Ketchum



Mayor
Peter M. Hendricks

Council
Jane Conard, *Council President*
Michelle Griffith
Keith Saks
Brad DuFur

March 20, 2024

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the City of Bellevue's Water Improvements Project

Dear Congressman Simpson:

I would like to express my support for the City of Bellevue's water improvements project which would return our public water system back to regulatory compliance.

In 2021, the City received a Sanitary Survey from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality ("IDEQ") identifying several significant deficiencies requiring corrective action including the need for a new source of supply and protection of source water from containment vulnerabilities. The deficiencies identified included potential exposure of various contamination sources infiltrating the groundwater supply, which could lead to total coliform bacterial outputs in the drinking water supply. This bacterium could lead to impacts to the general public's digestive system that could be chronic (or even fatal), especially in individuals with compromised immune systems.

Subsequently, the City entered into a state-approved corrective action plan that anticipated an improvements project modifying the system to achieve Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Systems. In addition, on February 4th, 2022, the IDEQ and the City entered into a Compliance Agreement Schedule that required improvements within a certain timeframe.

In response, the City filed an application and was priority ranked on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and was subsequently awarded a DEQ grant. However, the proposed loan portion offered in the grant is simply unaffordable for our most vulnerable community members who struggle to pay for other basic needs. Any federal support supplied toward the project would reduce the City's need to take on massive debt, providing critical and necessary improvements in furtherance of affordability, public health and safety and environmental compliance.

Thank you for representing the great state of Idaho and your representation of small communities like ours. We appreciate your consideration in providing much needed support for the City of Bellevue's drinking water project.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Hendricks
Mayor