



City of Bellevue
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April 18, 2025

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

Dear Congressman Simpson,

In December 2024 I was appointed Mayor of the City of Bellevue after having served on the City Council for 3 years. I ran on the platform that I would be an integral part of managing the much-needed improvements to our water system and rebuild of our wastewater system efficiently and effectively. Being a community member of this great city for the last 10 years I understand how much we must accomplish with how little funding we have.

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,

Christina Giordani
Mayor
City of Bellevue