



Office of the Board of County Commissioners

Cassia County, Idaho

COURTHOUSE

1459 Overland Ave., Rm. 210

Burley, Idaho 83318

Main: 208-878-7302

Fax: 208-878-3510

[www.cassiacounty.org](http://www.cassiacounty.org)

Robert "Bob" Kunau

Commissioner Dist. 2

[bob.kunau@cassia.gov](mailto:bob.kunau@cassia.gov)

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2084 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

I write to express strong support for federal funding to advance Phase 1A of the City of Burley's Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant redesign and renovation project.

Burley's Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant is at risk of violating the Clean Water Act if necessary improvements are not made. The facility's current capacity constraints prevent industrial expansion and threaten the region's economic future. An estimated \$1 billion in anticipated private-sector investment has been halted due to wastewater limitations, placing significant job creation and economic growth at risk.

Phase 1A is the critical first step in a three-phase modernization effort that will be completed over thirty months once funding is secured. This phase will establish full operational redundancy, mitigate potential environmental violations, and ensure continued service capacity for key industry partners, including High Desert Milk, Gossner Foods, and Gem State Processing. Completing Phase 1A will also position the City to pursue long-term upgrades and expansion without disrupting existing operations.

The City has engaged the Walla Walla District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist with design, planning, engineering, and construction, ensuring alignment with regional infrastructure and environmental priorities.

Federal investment in Phase 1A will protect environmental quality, preserve existing industry, unlock future economic growth, and secure long-term regulatory compliance. We respectfully urge your support for this critical project.

Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership on behalf of Idaho communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Kunau". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Robert "Bob" Kunau  
Commissioner District 2



RE: Industrial Waste Treatment Plant Upgrade

To Whom It May Concern:

One of our mission statements here at the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce is.. "It's a great day to be in business in Mini-Cassia." This continues to be true & we remain extremely grateful for new opportunities which will allow our area the ability to keep growing, not to mention provide additional jobs & exciting career paths for our residents.

One of the key elements to growth, of course, is a strong infrastructure. This is not just about roads or bridges, but includes other key elements to doing business.. like electrical grids, water lines & waste treatment facilities, to name a few.

The Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce fully supports the City of Burley in its efforts to upgrade their current industrial waste treatment plant to help attract new industrial opportunities to our area.

We trust that the decision makers for disbursement of funding, will strongly consider the City of Burley's request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Penne Y. Main".

Penne Y. Main  
President & CEO  
Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 640  
Heyburn, ID 83336



The Honorable Mike Simpson  
United States House of Representatives  
2084 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Community Project Funding Request – City of Burley Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Dear Representative Simpson:

As CEO of High Desert Milk, I'm writing to express our strong support for the City of Burley's request for federal support to help expand the industrial wastewater treatment plant. High Desert Milk and our 175 employees rely deeply on the facility!

The rapidly growing dairy and potato industries have the existing industrial wastewater treatment plant operating at full capacity. Without additional expansion, High Desert Milk will be unable to increase production capacity or expand our facilities.

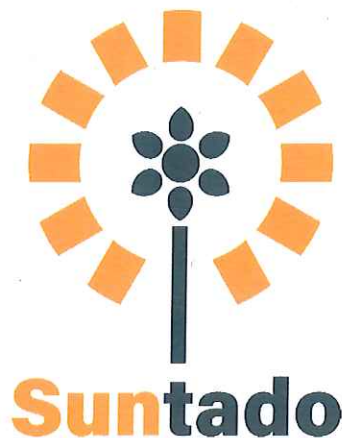
Over the last two years we have invested \$50 million into our community by expanding our plant. There is another opportunity for High Desert Milk to invest an additional \$20 million and add cream cheese to the products we offer. Support and federal funding to expand the City of Burley's wastewater treatment plant will help make this growth a reality.

My understanding is that this is a one-time federal request to complement funding the City has and will contribute to this vital project. We hope you agree this is a wise investment of federal funding to improve infrastructure and strengthen the economy of rural Idaho!

On behalf of High Desert Milk, thanks to you and your staff for your consideration of this funding request.

Sincerely,

Randy Robinson  
CEO



The Honorable Mike Simpson  
United States House of Representatives  
2084 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Community Project Funding Request – City of Burley Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Dear Representative Simpson:

As an Owner of Suntado, I'm writing to express our strong support for the City of Burley's industrial wastewater treatment plant update and expansion project. Suntado has recently started construction on a new, state-of-the-art 190,000-square-foot aseptic processing facility. The facility will provide co-packing and turn-key operations producing ESL (Extended Shelf Life) and UHT (Ultra High Temperature) milk and plant-based products for well-known regional and national brands. Complete build-out of the plant will place capacity conservatively at ~650,000 pounds of milk processed daily.

Our 24x7 plant state-of-the-art will employ between 90 to 100 full-time employees, above market compensation and benefits.

Upon completion of the facility, Suntado will rely on the wastewater treatment capabilities of the City of Burley to begin production.

The rapidly growing dairy and potato industries have the existing industrial wastewater treatment plant operating at full capacity. Without additional expansion, Suntado will be unable to increase production capacity or expand our facilities.

Suntado urges you to support the City's **one-time federal request** to upgrade the industrial wastewater treatment facility. The project will have a transformational impact on local industry and lay the groundwork for continued economic prosperity.

On behalf of Suntado, we thank you for your strong leadership in the Congress. Once our new facility is completed, you and your hard-working staff have an open invitation to tour our operation!

Sincerely,

Dirk Reitsma  
Owner of Suntado  
Suntado



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United States House of Representatives  
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Washington, DC 20515

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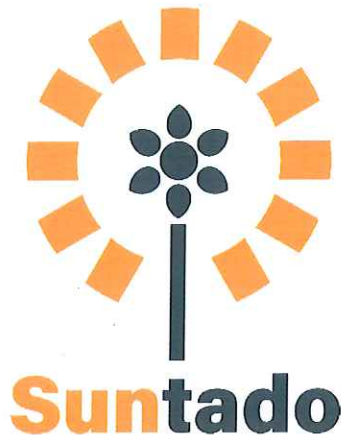
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On behalf of Suntado, we thank you for your strong leadership in the Congress. Once our new facility is completed, you and your hard-working staff have an open invitation to tour our operation!

Sincerely,

Jesus Hurtado  
Owner of Suntado  
Suntado



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United States House of Representatives  
2084 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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On behalf of Suntado, we thank you for your strong leadership in the Congress. Once our new facility is completed, you and your hard-working staff have an open invitation to tour our operation!

Sincerely,

Jeffry Williams  
CEO of Suntado  
Suntado

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
United States House of  
Representatives 2084 Rayburn House  
Office Building Washington, DC  
20515

**D.L. Evans** | BANK

**RE: Community Project Funding Request – City of Burley Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Dear Representative Simpson:

As President of D.L. Evans Bank, I'm writing to express our strong support for Community Project Funding to update and expand the City of Burley's industrial wastewater treatment plant. D.L. Evans Bank relies on the facility to process wastewater, which helps employ 99 full-time staff.

In addition to processing wastewater from our facility, Burley's wastewater treatment plant supports many other local businesses. The rapidly growing dairy and potato industries have the existing industrial wastewater treatment plant operating at full capacity. The capacity of the treatment plant needs to be expanded to keep pace with the growth of our customers, other City businesses, and new businesses seeking to locate in Burley.

If funded, the City's leadership will use wastewater fees and tax increment financing to support the remaining project costs and continued operation of the facility. My understanding is this is a one-time request for federal support for this much-needed project.

On behalf of D.L. Evans Bank, thank you for your leadership in the Congress -- especially your role as a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Sincerely,



John V. Evans  
President  
D.L. Evans Bank