



Governor Brad Little

State Capitol :: Boise, Idaho 83720
(208) 334-2100 :: gov.idaho.gov

April 9, 2025

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

Dear Congressman Simpson,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Rupert's application for Community Project Funding to address the urgent need for upgrades to its wastewater treatment infrastructure. I recognize the significant challenges faced by Rupert in maintaining its wastewater system, and I believe that this critical project will have a far-reaching positive impact on the community's health, environment, and long-term economic development.

Rupert is currently grappling with several issues related to its wastewater treatment infrastructure. The liners for two of the wastewater retention ponds are failing and could potentially fail Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seepage tests, posing an imminent risk to local water sources. Additionally, the aeration system at the existing plant has malfunctioned, causing operational inefficiencies and, unfortunately, unpleasant odors that are impacting the quality of life of nearby residents.

Swift repairs are essential to prevent further seepage and odor issues. However, repairs alone will not fully address the challenges posed by Rupert's steady population growth. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Rupert's population has been increasing at an average rate of 1.15% per year, and this growth highlights the critical need for increased capacity to support both the current and future demands of the city.

Support through CPF would alleviate the financial burden on local businesses and residents while ensuring that Rupert's wastewater treatment system is both efficient and sustainable for years to come.

Investing in this infrastructure project is necessary for safeguarding public health, protecting the environment, and fostering economic growth in Rupert. I strongly encourage you to consider this request for Community Project Funding and support the City of Rupert in addressing its wastewater treatment infrastructure needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho

District 27
Cassia, Minidoka,
Oneida Counties



STATE CAPITOL
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0081
(208) 332-1300
kanthon@senate.idaho.gov

Idaho State Senate

SENATOR KELLY ARTHUR ANTHON
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

April 10, 2025

The Honorable Mike Simpson
U.S. House of Representatives
2084 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson:

Subject: Letter of Support for City of Rupert Wastewater System Upgrade

I am writing to respectfully ask for your support of the City of Rupert's request for federal funding to finish upgrades to its wastewater treatment facilities. As the area's state senator and a lifelong member of the community, I have been very involved with the City's wastewater challenges over the years. In short, the community is at a historic crossroads – it must upgrade its sewer system to continue to provide basic residential needs and to serve our agricultural and food processing economy.

As a rural Idaho city of just over 6,500 people, the challenges currently facing the city's wastewater facilities have reached a crisis level. There has been a catastrophic failure of the City's aeration system to process its sewage. Within five more years, its pond liners will also have failed and no more wastewater can be accepted. The wastewater treatment plant currently is used to process waste from not only town residents, but local employers like Idahoan Foods, Brewster Cheese, Mart Frozen Foods, and Bare Beans. Failure to quickly make repairs will cause significant harm to Idaho's economy.

There are already problems causing concern about community health and safety. The system failures have led to persistent odors and compromised waste processing performance, creating concerns for both public health and quality of life of nearby residents. Without timely intervention, the situation will

continue to worsen and could potentially pose a threat to public health and environmental safety. However, it is also clear that short-term fixes will not be suffice. With Rupert's population steadily increasing at a rate of approximately 1.15% annually, there is a growing demand for expanded wastewater capacity. A properly functioning wastewater system is essential to prevent contamination of drinking water supplies and reduce the risk of waterborne illnesses. A reliable and modern treatment facility is also crucial to safeguarding our natural water sources, ecosystems and wildlife from harmful pollutants. With the proposed fixes, clean water could also be generated for aquifer recharge – something that Idaho needs desperately.

The total cost of the proposed upgrades is \$44,416,887.00. While the City is leveraging \$16,056,272.00 in ARPA funds, the remaining financial need is substantial. Securing additional support will help alleviate the burden on local businesses and residents while ensuring the longevity and efficiency of the wastewater system.

Investing in this vital infrastructure is not just a matter of regulatory compliance with EPA regulations under the Clean Water Act – it is a commitment to the long-term health, safety, and prosperity of the City of Rupert and all of Southern Idaho. Again, I respectfully ask your full consideration and support of this critical project that will serve our community for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Sen. Kelly Arthur Anthon
President Pro Tempore
Idaho State Senate



SCOTT BEDKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 27, 2024

Dear Congressman Simpson,

This letter serves as an expression of my strong support for the City of Rupert's Community Project Funding application to fund its wastewater system upgrade. This is a critical project because the improvements are absolutely necessary to provide basic services for Rupert's residents as well as the farmers and food processors in the area.

As you know, Rupert is a small Idaho community that is gaining population, like most other cities in the state. This growth increases the need for a safe, clean, and efficient wastewater treatment system. Rupert is facing a total cost for the upgrades of \$44,416,887.00. Financial support from the Community Project Funding program will help the City meet their funding needs and will help lessen the considerable financial burden on local businesses and residents.

Furthermore, because the liners for two of their wastewater retention ponds are failing, the repairs need to be done soon in order to avoid possible environmental problems. Additionally, the plant's aeration system has failed, causing odor problems that negatively affect nearby residents. In short, Rupert's wastewater system has reached a crisis point and needs to receive major repairs before it becomes a public health concern of epic proportions.

Please give this request your most serious consideration. Providing an efficient and sustainable wastewater treatment facility will safeguard public health, protect the environment, and foster economic growth. This critical infrastructure project will reap benefits well into the future for the City of Rupert and the entire Southern Idaho region.

Thank you for your service to our great state and thank you for supporting this request.

Sincerely,

Scott Bedke
Lieutenant Governor



**MINIDOKA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PO BOX 368
RUPERT, ID 83350
(208) 436-7180 X 111**

COMMISSIONERS

JARED ORTON
DAN SCHAEFFER
SHERYL KOYLE

March 10, 2025

RE: City of Rupert's wastewater treatment plant

To whom this may concern:


The City of Rupert is applying for a congressional federal grant to help support the cost of upgrades to the City's wastewater treatment plant. This grant is needed to help cover the cost of required repairs and upgrades that will allow the city to better meet current demands and continue to support the rapid growth of the area. In addition, it would lessen the financial impact to local business and residents.

As the Board of Minidoka County Commission, we periodically receive communication from concerned residents about the age and function of the city's wastewater plant. Our community is growing and the need for longevity and efficiency of a wastewater treatment facility is of the utmost importance. As well as maintaining public health, protecting the environment, and supporting economic development in our community.

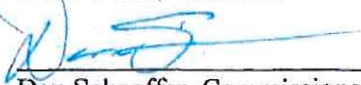
We believe the upgrades for the wastewater treatment facility is a necessity and in the best interest of Minidoka County and the City of Rupert. We would encourage the awarding of this grant to the City of Rupert, ID.

Respectfully,

Minidoka County Commissioners



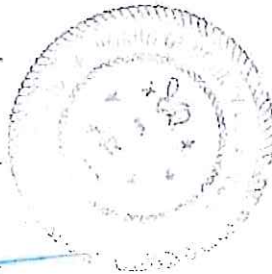
Jared Orton, Chairman



Dan Schaeffer, Commissioner



Sheryl Koyle, Commissioner





27 February 2025

Mike Simpson
Congressman, Idaho 2nd District
802 West Bannock, Suite 600
Boise, Idaho 83702

Subject: Letter of Support for the City of Rupert's Community Project Funding (CFS) Grant Application

Dear Congressman Simpson,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Rupert's application for the Community Project Funding (CFS) grant to assist with critical upgrades to its wastewater treatment plant. The City of Rupert is facing significant infrastructure challenges that must be addressed to ensure the continued well-being of its residents and the sustainability of its community.

Currently, the liners for two of the city's wastewater retention ponds are failing, and the aeration system at the existing plant has malfunctioned, leading to operational inefficiencies and persistent odor issues. Immediate repairs are necessary to prevent further seepage and environmental concerns, yet these measures alone will not be sufficient to support the city's growing population and economic development needs.

The total cost for the required upgrades is \$44,416,887.00. While the City has allocated \$16,056,272 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, a significant financial gap remains. The CFS grant funding would play a vital role in alleviating this financial burden on local businesses and residents while ensuring the longevity and efficiency of Rupert's wastewater treatment system.

Investing in this project is crucial for maintaining public health, safeguarding the environment, and fostering economic growth. A reliable wastewater treatment system is essential for sustaining both residential and commercial development in the City of Rupert, and these necessary improvements will have long-term benefits for the entire community.

As a resident and employer in Rupert, Idaho, I wholeheartedly support the City of Rupert's grant application and urge your favorable consideration of their request. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Julian B. Critchfield

Julian B. Critchfield
CEO & President
The Mart Group
C: 801-376-1951



PO Box 426 – 624 F Street – Rupert, Idaho 83350
208-436-9600 – fax 208-436-9920

March 5, 2025


Re: Community Project Funding

The City of Rupert is facing significant challenges with its wastewater treatment infrastructure. The liners for two of the wastewater retention ponds are failing, and the aeration system at the existing plant has malfunctioned, leading to operational inefficiencies and unpleasant odors. These odors are affecting the way the surrounding neighbors are able to enjoy the outdoors during the warmer months of the year and is causing much distress.

While immediate repairs are necessary to prevent further seepage and odor issues, they will not address the need for increased capacity to support the city's growth.

The total cost for the upgrades is \$44,416,887.00, and while the City is utilizing \$16,056,272 in ARPA funds, there remains a substantial financial gap. This grant funding would alleviate the financial burden on local businesses and residents while ensuring the longevity and efficiency of the wastewater treatment system. Investing in this infrastructure project is essential to maintaining public health, protecting the environment, and supporting economic development in our community.

CITY OF RUPERT


Tammy Jones
Mayor

'Rupert is an equal opportunity provider and employer.'