

Project Name:

Ravalli County Wastewater Treatment Plant

Recipient:

Ravalli County Economic Development Authority

Address:

274 Old Corvallis Road, Suite A, Hamilton MT 59840

Amount Requested:

10,000,000

Project Explanation:

Ravalli County is currently one of the most rapidly developing counties in Montana and one of the greatest in need of affordable housing. One of the greatest barriers to that is the lack of water and sewage treatment capacity. Until recently, Ravalli County residents have been forced to send their septage by truck to Missoula County for disposal and treatment. Recently this arrangement was terminated due to Missoula County's own issues with sewage treatment capacity. Currently, all septage from within Ravalli County is being transported and deposited on privately held lands. This is a concern both environmentally and economically due to the capacity barriers this process creates. Septic seepage levels are reaching a dangerous level and because of this the county is limited in new septic permits it can issue to build new homes and dwellings. This new facility if funded would protect drinking water, ease capacity restrictions inhibiting development, and protect environmental quality by keeping septic seepage and human waste out of critical groundwater siphons and the Bitterroot River.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2601

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Ravalli County Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Ravalli County Wastewater Treatment Plant in Fiscal Year 2025.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Ravalli County, 215 S. 4th Street, Ste A, Hamilton, MT 59840.

The funding would be used for the construction of the Ravalli County Septage Facility. The Project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Ravalli County is currently one of the most rapidly developing counties in Montana and one of the greatest in need of affordable housing. One of the greatest barriers to that is the lack of water and sewage treatment capacity. Until recently, Ravalli County residents have been forced to send their septage by truck to Missoula County for disposal and treatment. Recently this arrangement was terminated due to Missoula County's own issues with sewage treatment capacity. Currently, all septage from within Ravalli County is being transported and deposited on privately held lands. This is a concern both environmentally and economically due to the capacity barriers this process creates. Septic seepage levels are reaching a dangerous level and because of this the county is limited in new septic permits it can issue to build new homes and dwellings. This new facility if funded would protect drinking water, ease capacity restrictions inhibiting development, and protect environmental quality by keeping septic seepage and human waste out of critical groundwater siphons and the Bitterroot River.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1) and 5305(a)(2).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress