

Project Name:

City of Columbia Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Phase 1

Recipient:

City of Columbia Falls

Address:

130 6th St W, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Amount Required:

\$3,100,000

Project Description:

Columbia Falls is a working-class family neighborhood in Northwest Montana, home to much of the region's teachers, law enforcement officers, and railroad, timber and manufacturing workforce. While many people work in towns 15-20 miles away, Columbia Falls remains an affordable option with good schools for many working families. However recently the city has been forced to limit new commercial and residential development because the existing wastewater treatment plant is nearing its effective treatment capacity. This not only limits the supply of affordable family housing in the area but it also puts water quality at risk. This funding will allow for upgrades to the existing wastewater treatment plant, allowing it to increase capacity and meet higher environmental and public health standards.

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

March 19, 2026

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: City of Columbia Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Phase I

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Columbia Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Phase 1 in Fiscal Year 2027

The entity to receive funding for this project is City of Columbia Falls located at 130 6th St W, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Columbia Falls is a working-class family neighborhood in Northwest Montana, home to much of the region's teachers, law enforcement officers, and railroad, timber and manufacturing workforce. While many people work in towns 15-20 miles away, Columbia Falls remains an affordable option with good schools for many working families. However recently the city has been forced to limit new commercial and residential development because the existing wastewater treatment plant is nearing its effective treatment capacity. This not only limits the supply of affordable family housing in the area but it also puts water quality at risk. This funding will allow for upgrades to the existing wastewater treatment plant, allowing it to increase capacity and meet higher environmental and public health standards.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(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