

**Project Name:**

Lakeside Wastewater System Improvements Project Phase 1

**Recipient:**

Lakeside Water & Sewer District

**Address:**

253 Bierney Creek Rd., Lakeside, MT 59922

**Amount Required:**

\$3,000,000

**Project Description:**

The communities of Lakeside and Sommers, Montana, sit on the shores of Flathead Lake. Since 1987 when their sewage treatment plant was constructed, these communities have grown by roughly 700%. The plant, originally built to support roughly 400 residents, now services more than 3,400 residents and hundreds of businesses. This project would upgrade the nearly 40-year old wastewater treatment facility to provide reliable and safe drinking water and also strengthen environmental safeguards related to the protection of Flathead Lake. Flathead Lake is an important economic engine in Northwest Montana. In 2023, an estimated more than 320,000 people visited Flathead Lake State Park. Visitors generated tens of millions of dollars in consumer spending which in turn supported local tax revenue and jobs. Maintaining the water quality of Flathead Lake is important to Montana's tourism industry, which significantly contributes to the State's economy. This project solves a county wide need by producing a centralized location to dispose of septage and a more thorough treatment of this waste.

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

March 20, 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: Lakeside Wastewater System Improvements Project Phase 1**

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Lakeside Wastewater System Improvements Project Phase 1 in Fiscal Year 2027

The entity to receive funding for this project is Lakeside Water & Sewer District located at 253 Bierney Creek Rd., Lakeside, MT 59922.

The communities of Lakeside and Sommers, Montana, sit on the shores of Flathead Lake. Since 1987 when their sewage treatment plant was constructed, these communities have grown by roughly 700%. The plant, originally built to support roughly 400 residents, now services more than 3,400 residents and hundreds of businesses. This project would upgrade the nearly 40-year old wastewater treatment facility to provide reliable and safe drinking water and also strengthen environmental safeguards related to the protection of Flathead Lake. Flathead Lake is an important economic engine in Northwest Montana. In 2023, an estimated more than 320,000 people visited Flathead Lake State Park. Visitors generated tens of millions of dollars in consumer spending which in turn supported local tax revenue and jobs. Maintaining the water quality of Flathead Lake is important to Montana's tourism industry, which significantly contributes to the State's economy. This project solves a county wide need by producing a centralized location to dispose of septage and a more thorough treatment of this waste.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.

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