

**Project Name:**

Ravalli County Wastewater Treatment Plant

**Recipient:**

Ravalli County

**Address:**

274 Old Corvallis Road, Suite A, Hamilton MT 59840

**Amount Required:**

\$10,000,000

**Project Description:**

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. Ravalli county until recently has been forced to send its raw sewage by truck to Missoula county for disposal and treatment. Recently this arrangement was terminated due to Missoula counties own issues with sewage treatment capacity. Currently all sewage pumped from septic tanks in Ravalli county is being deposited on National Forest lands. This is a concern both environmentally and economically due to the capacity barriers this 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 23, 2025

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 Project**

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Ravalli County Wastewater Treatment Plant Project in Fiscal Year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Ravalli County Economic Development Authority located at 274 Old Corvallis Road, Suite A, Hamilton MT 59840.

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. Recently this arrangement was terminated due to Missoula counties own issues with sewage treatment capacity. Currently all sewage pumped from septic tanks in Ravalli County is being deposited on National Forest lands. This is a concern both environmentally and economically due to the capacity barriers this 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 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