

Project Name:

Seeley Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant

Recipient:

Seeley Lake Missoula County Sewer District

Address:

3360 Highway 83 North, Seeley Lake, MT 59868

Amount Required:

\$21,134,250

Project Description:

The largest employer in Seeley Lake and one of the largest in Missoula County announced it was closing after 75 years in business citing it was "crippled" by labor shortages driven by a lack of affordable housing, inflation, and lumber prices. The mill employed roughly 250 employees. The town of Seeley Lake is very rural and unable to build additional housing because it does not have a municipal water system to support additional housing and the existing septic system is at capacity and contaminating the groundwater. Building a water system will allow developers to invest in affordable workforce housing to support reopening the mill and growing jobs and economic activity in the region.

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: Seeley Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant Project

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Seeley Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant in Fiscal Year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Seeley Lake Missoula County Sewer District located at P.O. Box 403, Seeley Lake Mt. 59868

The funding would be used for the sewer collection and treatment system for the Seeley Lake area. The Project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the community of Seeley Lake is dealing with a groundwater degradation issue because of the high density of individual septic systems. This degradation issue places an additional burden on residents to upgrade or improve their homes and businesses relative to wastewater treatment. It also places an additional treatment burden on new residential or business construction. The sewer collection/treatment system for the area would allow for cost-effective housing construction, residence, business expansion, and new construction. The construction of a wastewater collection/treatment system would allow Seeley Lake to adequately service residents and their homes and the thousands of visitors from all over the country who enjoy the area's beauty.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 42 U.S.C. 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