

Ref: KS HB 2302
2023

Date: February 8,

To: Tony Prohaska, House Water Committee

Dear House Members,

First, thank your support on this matter.

The City of Belle Plaine has been involved in the planning of an entire water infrastructure project for just over three years. Our current system was put in place around 1917.

The plan when we started was to replace the supply lines throughout the city. Our maintenance department currently spends approximately 12-16 man hours per week repairing water leaks. Not only is this a strain on our employees, but when the lines were installed, all of the streets were gravel. Now every time there is a leak, we are removing asphalt to access the leak.

As the talks started with our engineers and grant writers, we soon found out that we also needed to replace our water tower also. Like I said it has been in place since 1917. We were told by the engineers that the size of the tower is undersized for a town of our size. It is a 50K gallon tank and today's specifications call for a 300K gallon tank. The current tank turns over or cycles 3-4 times a day.

Shortly after we started this project we received notification from the state that our nitrate levels were above the allowable limits and we have since been issued a compliance letter from the KDHE. We are still under that compliance notice at this time. That notice brought the need for a nitrate removal plant to be included into our project.

At this time, we have about 20% of the amount of funding needed for this project from USDA Rural Development, CDBG, and a loan to complete the planning phase and start the water tower relocation, including the nitrate plant and some well improvements. The total cost of this project will be over \$15 million. The best-case scenario is that we will have to finance 65% of that cost.

Any funding that can be found to help our cities that are facing these types of obstacles will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Greg Harlan

Mayor, City of Belle Plaine