

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2307

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Akeley Water and Wastewater System Improvement Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Akeley, MN, located at 25 Broadway St E., Akeley, MN 56433.

The funding would be used to perform critical improvements to the City of Akeley's drinking water and sanitary sewer systems. The City's drinking water system will be improved by replacing several key components of the water tower damaged by corrosion, as well as 5 blocks of 1940s-era cast-iron pipe in the water distribution system. Additionally, the project will install a backup power source at the City's supply wells and water treatment plant.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this project will provide Akeley's residents and visitors with reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable drinking water and the proper disposal of wastewater. The cast iron pipes in the water distribution system are more than 75 years old and have exceeded their useful life. These pipes are susceptible to disruptive and costly breaks and associated water quality issues. Additionally, the sloughing banks and outdated pumps at the treatment lagoons reduce the efficiency of the City's wastewater system.

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

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress