



Joint Letter of Support for the Echo Sewer Project
from the Offices of Senator Hansell, SD 29 and Representative Levy, HD 58

Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and members of the Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

For the past 17 years, the City of Echo has been put between a rock and a hard place. They have been paying fines, regularly, to DEQ for leakage from their wastewater system into the Umatilla River. However, like every other small community in Oregon, their community of older, fixed-income residents, were not able to fund the replacement system necessary for compliance. Echo, which hosts less than 750 residents, is home to some of the best wineries in Eastern Oregon. As a historic town, much of the infrastructure needs to be updated and replaced, and the sewer system is just one of them.

For the past two years, Echo has increased its wastewater utility rates, well above any other community in the region. This has put extreme economic strain on Echo residents and makes it impossible for the city to pursue other desperately needed infrastructure projects. Any portion of funding that can be given to the City of Echo would directly alleviate the financial strain on these residents, while also ensuring that the wastewater no longer contaminates our precious streams and water sources.

Thank you for your consideration of this project,

Senator Bill Hansell, SD 29

Representative Bobby Levy, HD 58