



# COUNTY OF RICHLAND

## Office of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Loren Young, *Chair*  
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Sidney, Montana 59270-4035

January 14, 2013

Rob Cook  
Chairman, Long Range Planning Sub-Committee  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620

EXHIBIT 22  
DATE Jan. 14, 2013  
HB 6 + 11

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee

As a Commissioner of Richland County, I am pleased to have the opportunity to address the Long Range Planning Sub-Committee regarding the very important Richland County/Savage 2M Wasterwater Project. Both the County and the District have been and continue to make improvements to the system; however we simply cannot afford the costs of this proposed project. The wasterwater system has been issued an Administrative Order on Consent due to numerous discharge permit violations, in addition the wasterwater lagoon is leaking excessively to groundwater and to an adjacent irrigation overflow ditch which is a serious public health and safety problem. Another concern regarding the current wasterwater system is the significant growth due to the recent oil boom activity in Richland County and it is anticipated that Savage could begin to experience this growth also.

While the district is committed to doing everything it can to reduce the cost of these improvements, it is apparent that the Savage community will need to implement a very costly project. The District will be incurring a very large debt and must significantly raise the sewer rates to do so. The proposed funding package estimates that user rates may increase to approximately \$38 per month depending on the final cost of the project, which is 170% above target rate. Without the support from the TSEP and RRGL programs, this project would not be affordable for the residents of the Savage community. We need the help of the TSEP and RRGL Program grants to minimize the impact to our residents, especially for low income and retired persons on a fixed income. We strongly urge the committee to fund our project; it is very important to the County, District and the residents of Savage.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the sub-committee as well as the TSEP and RRGL programs for our time here today and giving us the chance to present this very important wasterwater project.

Sincerely,

Loren H. Young – Richland County Commissioner Chairman



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