

January 12, 2023

Dear Chairman Hopkins and members of the Long-Range Planning Committee,

I regret not being able to attend today's hearing on HB 11 in person, and I thank you for the opportunity to tell you about and urge your support for the City of Red Lodge Wastewater Improvements Project, HB 6, and HB 11.

- The City of Red Lodge has requested a \$125,000 Montana Renewable Resource grant and a \$500,000 Montana Coal Endowment Program grant to improve our wastewater collection system.
- The project includes rehabilitating 3,300 lineal feet of sewer mains with cured-in-place pipe and installing a grinder pump upstream of the wet well.
- Much of our collection system is over 100 years old. Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) of groundwater into our system is "excessive."
- During large storm events, wastewater bubbles out of sewer manholes.
- The project is necessary to protect public health and safety. The MCEP and RRGL grants are necessary to keep our user rates affordable for our residents.
- The City is also facing other challenges recovering from last summer's disastrous flood in addition to a upsurge in growth caused by COVID.

Your support of HB 6 and HB 11 will help us hold the line on user rates and develop a project that is needed to protect public health and safety by reducing the potential for exposure to sewage.

Thank you for your time, and please get in touch with me at (406) 426-0056.

Respectfully,



Jim Bushnell  
Public Works Director