

Chairman Hopkins and members of the Long-Range Planning Committee

I thank you for the opportunity to tell you about and urge you to support the Havre Water Project in House Bill 6 and House Bill 11.

- The City of Havre has requested a \$125,000 Montana Renewable Resource grant and a \$500,000 Montana Coal Endowment Program to improve our water system.
- The City has approximately 120,000 feet of cast iron pipe existing within the water distribution system.
- The City has had 255 main breaks in the last eleven years – 46 of those in the last two years alone.
- During main breaks, large sections of the city are without water for long periods, which limits critical water flows in an emergency. This creates a significant safety hazard for residents.
- When lines are depressurized due to main breaks, a low and negative system pressure occurs, and the pipe is susceptible to drawing in (backflow) contaminated water.



- The project includes replacing
 - Replace 18,968 lineal feet of 6-inch water main with PVC;
 - Replace 1,452 lineal feet of 8-inch water main with PVC;
 - Replace 1,175 lineal feet of 12-inch water main with PVC;
 - Replace 1,436 lineal feet of 16-inch water main with PVC;
- The total project cost is approximately \$8,355,000 million, and we need the MCEP and RRGL grant funding to keep our user rates as low as possible.
- The City of Havre has a population of approximately 9,786 residents with 4,160 households.
- The 2019 median household income (MHI) in Havre is \$48,294. Over 19.1% of the population lives below the poverty level, which equals 1 in every 5.2 residents living in poverty.
- Keeping the user rates as low as possible is critical.
- Our community is committed to providing residents with safe and reliable water and wastewater infrastructure.

Your support of HB 6 and HB 11 will help us hold the line on user rates to the project when our residents have such a high level of restricted incomes.