



# TOWN OF RICHEY

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**MAYOR**  
*NaDean Brown*

**TOWN COUNCIL**  
Ward 1: *Tammy Clinton*  
Ward 1: *Troy Holzworth*  
Ward 2: *Debra Gibson*  
Ward 2: *Michael Hagwood*

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## Town of Richey Testimony

### Long-Range Planning Committee

Honorable Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am NaDean Brown, Mayor of the Town of Richey.

On behalf of the Town of Richey, I want to say that we greatly appreciate the opportunity these funding programs are providing our community to complete much-needed infrastructure improvements. The Town of Richey is a rural community in northern Dawson County and is economically supported mainly by agriculture. This proposed project is the second phase of several critical water system improvements that are urgently needed throughout our community. Many of our water mains are over 80 years old, and we seem to be continuously fixing leaks on them; these repairs are costly relative to the limited annual operating budget for a small town such as ours. In addition, nearly two-thirds of our water mains are undersized, meaning that in the event of a large fire, the Town's volunteer fire department would struggle to put out the fire.

Obtaining grant funding from the MCEP and DNRC-RRGL programs will go a long way toward keeping our user rates reasonable while we look to upgrade our water system and make it sustainable. In addition to repairing the water mains, we also have significant costs related to operating our water treatment facility and to pumping water from the supply aquifer, which is nearly 1,500 feet below ground.

As is the case for many of the communities around us, operating these systems is not cheap! Richey is in the process of raising its water rates by \$26 per month over the next year to accommodate this project and the additional maintenance required on the system. This increase will put our monthly combined base rates at over \$125, which is well above the target rate. We have many elderly people in our community with fixed incomes who are especially affected by these rate increases. In addition, because of the high inflation that has occurred within the construction industry, our first phase of water system improvements needed to be scaled back significantly to meet the budget, making these funding programs that much more important to the continuing upgrade of our water system.

We respectfully request the essential help from these programs to complete the second phase of our water system improvements project. We are hopeful that the phased completion of this project will be accomplished before connecting to the Dry-Redwater regional water system.

Respectfully Yours,

NaDean Brown, Mayor  
Town of Richey

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