



The City of Lansing

Office of the Mayor
www.lansingsks.org

March 1, 2025

The Honorable Jerry Moran
US Senator for Kansas
Dirksen SOB – RM 521
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Marshall
US Senator for Kansas
Russell SOB – 479A
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Derek Schmidt
US Congressman for Kansas
1223 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Support for Upgrades to Leavenworth Waterworks Infrastructure

Dear Senator Moran, Senator Marshall and Congressman Schmidt,

The elected representatives of the City of Lansing, who are the customers of Leavenworth Waterworks write to express our urgent support for federal investment in the upgrade and consolidation of the south water treatment plant owned and operated by Leavenworth Waterworks. We request your advocacy supporting this community effort.

The reliable supply of clean water is critical to the economic vitality and public health of our communities. However, the unexpected and severe degradation of the Missouri Riverbed, exacerbated by upstream water diversions, has created a critical vulnerability in our water supply system. During low-flow winter months, the raw water inlets at the north water treatment plant become exposed, jeopardizing the ability to provide essential water services to approximately 60,000 residents, businesses, and vital institutions.

Leavenworth Waterworks has employed the engineering firm Black & Veatch to study current infrastructure and explore solutions. Long-term, the most efficient resolution to this issue involves decommissioning the north treatment plant and consolidating operations to the more efficient and reliable south plant. *Required upgrades to the south treatment plant are estimated to cost as much as \$57 million, which could cause commercial and residential water rates to rise 10-15% for customers EACH of the next five years.* The area is facing a true financial challenge.

Leavenworth Waterworks provides an average of over 500,000 gallons of water per day to Lan-Del Water District and Lansing's residents. The potential consequences of dramatically increasing water rates for local institutions and residents are severe. Business closures, job losses, annual budget challenges and more importantly future developments could be at risk. Potential security related disruptions at the Federal Penitentiary, Lansing Correctional Facility or the VA Medical Center are especially concerning.

The financial burden of this critical infrastructure upgrade is substantial. Federal investment is essential to ensure the long-term viability of our water supply system and mitigate the potential for severe disruptions.

We respectfully urge the Kansas Congressional Delegation to:

- Write support letters related to any applicable federal grant programs.
- Support the inclusion of Leavenworth Waterworks in federal funding opportunities designed to enhance water infrastructure resilience including Congressionally Directed Spending.
- Work with federal, state and local officials to secure necessary approvals and expedite project timelines when necessary and appropriate.

The reliable supply of clean water in the Leavenworth and Lansing area is a matter of national, state, and local importance. We believe that federal investment in the Leavenworth Waterworks south treatment plant is a critical step towards ensuring the long-term health, safety, and economic prosperity of our communities. Please reach out if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Anthony McNeill
Mayor
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