



*City of Stevenson*  
*Mayor Frank Cox*

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Phone (509)427-5970  
FAX (509) 427-8202

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371  
Stevenson, Washington 98648

March 28, 2017

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler  
United States Congress  
1107 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Beutler:

As the Mayor of a small rural community with a population of 1,540, I am writing to request your direct assistance. As you are aware, the President's "America First" FY 2018 Budget proposes to eliminate the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program.


USDA's Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program has been the affordable financing solution for our needs for decades and for similar communities throughout rural Washington. Our ratepayers simply can't afford commercial or private financing with the prevailing rates and terms. We, like thousands of similar rural communities, are concerned that without this affordable financing, small and rural communities across this nation will not be able to address their critical water and wastewater needs.

These vital rural infrastructure funding tools help small communities like Stevenson enhance and protect their economic health and vitality. USDA has been our partner for decades in this endeavor and we must continue to protect and improve our infrastructure in order to make our rural communities thrive.

I respectfully request that you include funding for the USDA Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program in the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee's fiscal year 2018 appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your continued commitment and assistance to rural America.

Sincerely,

  
Frank Cox  
Mayor