

HARRIET M. HAGEMAN

AT-LARGE, WYOMING

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAIR, INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION
OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
1531 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-5000
PHONE: (202) 225-2311

2120 CAPITOL AVENUE
CHEYENNE, WY 82001
PHONE: (307) 829-3299

100 EAST B STREET
CASPER, WY 82601
PHONE: (307) 261-6595

222 SOUTH GILLETTE AVENUE
GILLETTE, WY 82716
PHONE: (307) 228-6399

January 2, 2024

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
United States Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C St. NW #7654
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Commissioner Touton,

As the lone Congressional representative from the State of Wyoming, I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Cheyenne's Board of Public Utilities (BOPU) project submissions to the Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grant Program.

The City of Cheyenne currently has a population of approximately 64,000 people representing roughly 11% of Wyoming's total population. Over the last ten years, its population has increased at a rapid rate of around 9.5%. According to multiple estimates, this growth is expected to continue by approximately 2% every year. While Cheyenne's existing water supply and infrastructure are expected to serve its resident's needs over the next several years, improving the functionality of these systems to account for the projected population and economic growth is a priority in supporting these positive trends.

If selected as a recipient of these awards, the BOPU plans to make multiple upgrades to both its existing technology and operations for the benefit of all its users. Specifically, the BOPU seeks to complete the transition to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) through the installation of gateway fixed network data collectors and exchanging older meter designs with smart meter technology that communicates real-time water usage data. The BOPU also plans to create a customer portal so its users can effectively track their water usage data at any time. AMI will allow BOPU to expedite its leak-repairing operations while also giving consumers the necessary tools to use water efficiently and save money.

Furthermore, with around half of Cheyenne's total water supply originating from an exchange of water rights on the Little Snake River in the Upper Colorado River Basin, the potential for water shortages through curtailment of water rights is a very real possibility. AMI, among other relevant projects, not only increases the sustainability of existing water resources but also enhances resiliency toward the potential for future shortages.

With a growing population and a prosperous future full of economic development, it is more important than ever that we support projects that modernize Cheyenne's infrastructure to ensure the needs of everyone in the community are met. These water infrastructure improvements are a major step towards reaching this goal. With that being said, I urge you to give your full attention and consideration to the Cheyenne BOPU's application submissions to the USBR's WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grant Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Harriet M. Hageman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Harriet" being more prominent and the last name "Hageman" following in a similar style.

Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress