

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 2, 2021

Todd Joersz
State Hazard Mitigation Officer
North Dakota Department of Emergency Services
P.O. Box 5511
Bismarck, ND 58506-5511

Dear Mr. Joersz:

We write in support of the City of Washburn's request for an extension from March 22, 2021 until October 1, 2022 of the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant for the Washburn Intake Project.

Due to changing low and high flow river conditions in recent years, the management of the Missouri River system through the City of Washburn has strained the ability of the City to manage its water pump intake system. Washburn's current intake system continues to experience problems with the changing river flow volume, creating a less than reliable water source for the City and its residents. To help mitigate the cost associated with improving the City's intake system, the City applied for a FEMA PDM grant. In November of 2019, the City of Washburn received a FEMA PDM grant for \$1.02 million that is set to expire on March 22, 2021.

After receiving the grant, the City received bids for Washburn's that were higher than anticipated due to the current bidding market, the location of the intake, and construction risks. Upon learning of the additional expense, the City of Washburn did not award the project and has been working since to secure additional funding to ensure residents are not overburdened with the higher cost. As the City is close to reaching an agreement that will make the project affordable, an extension would give the City of Washburn the necessary time to shore up the funding needed to move forward with the project.

The City of Washburn continues to make great strides in improving their water pump intake system. The extension is crucial to the City's goal of ensuring a reliable and safe water source for its residents. We urge you to accept the City's request of an extension for use of the funds from March 22, 2021 until October 1, 2022. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



U.S. Senator
John Hoeven



U.S. Senator
Kevin Cramer



U.S. Congressman
Kelly Armstrong