

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS

February 2, 2022

Dear Attendees,

Thank you for your invitation to attend this year's annual North Dakota Rural Water Conference. Every community relies on access to a clean and reliable water supply. Our rural water systems play a critical role in meeting this need for our state's residents, regardless of their ZIP code. Thank you for this important contribution to our state's quality of life.

As the lead Republican on the Senate Ag Appropriations Committee, I am working to support your efforts. This includes maintaining strong funding for the programs you rely on, like USDA's Water and Waste Disposal Program and the Circuit Rider Program, as well as similar programs at the EPA and Army Corps. To this end, I cosponsored and helped pass bipartisan legislation in the Senate that authorizes \$35 billion for water and wastewater programs, including state revolving loans, WIFIA loans and grants for small and disadvantaged communities. Importantly, more than 40 percent of this funding can be utilized by rural and tribal communities. These efforts are about helping construct new and updated water systems, while also providing the training and technical assistance you need to comply with federal regulations.

At the same time, we are working to prevent heavy-handed federal rules from burdening our rural water providers and continue to advance a state-led approach to regulation. During her recent visit to North Dakota, I pressed the EPA's Assistant Administrator for Water to continue utilizing local experts, who best know their communities and the local water resources, for the agency's technical assistance programs.

Through these and other efforts, we are working to ensure our rural water systems can continue to effectively serve our communities for years to come. Thank you, again, for the invitation and your important work. Best wishes for an enjoyable and productive event.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator