

April 11, 2024

Ms. Sarah Brunn
City Administrator
City of Foley
251 4th Avenue North
PO Box 709
Foley, MN 56329

Ms. Brunn:

I am writing on behalf of Benton Economic Partnership, Inc. to express our enthusiastic support for the proposed Water Treatment Plant and Well 6 Construction in the City of Foley. As an organization dedicated to fostering sustainable development and enhancing the economic vitality of our region, we recognize the critical importance of investing in infrastructure to promote growth, improve quality of life, and ensure long-term prosperity for all residents.

Infrastructure serves as the backbone of any thriving community, facilitating transportation, commerce, communication, and access to essential services. By modernizing and expanding infrastructure networks, communities can unlock new opportunities for economic development, attract businesses, create jobs, and enhance the overall well-being of residents.

The proposed infrastructure updates align closely with our Region 7W Community Economic Development Strategies, addressed under the Water Quality Water-Related Infrastructure Goals and Strategies. We commend your proactive approach in identifying and addressing the infrastructure needs of your community. We firmly believe that these investments will yield significant benefits, not only for your locality but also for the broader region as a whole.

In addition to the tangible economic benefits, investing in infrastructure contributes to environmental sustainability, resilience, and social equity. By integrating principles of sustainability and inclusivity into infrastructure planning and design, communities can reduce their environmental footprint, enhance resilience to climate change, and ensure that infrastructure projects benefit all residents, including underserved and marginalized populations.

Furthermore, by collaborating with regional partners, stakeholders, and funding agencies, communities can leverage resources, expertise, and best practices to maximize the impact of infrastructure investments and achieve shared development objectives. As a regional development commission, we are committed to supporting these collaborative efforts and assisting communities in accessing funding, technical assistance, and other resources to advance their infrastructure priorities.

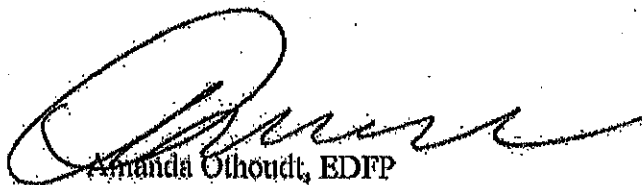
Our mission is to promote economic development in Benton County so the county will grow and prosper

In conclusion, Benton Economic Partnership, Inc. stands ready to provide any assistance or support necessary to advance the proposed infrastructure updates within your community. We are excited about the potential of these projects to catalyze positive change, stimulate economic growth, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to building stronger, more resilient communities. We look forward to working together to realize our shared vision of a prosperous and sustainable future for all.

Sincerely,


Sandra Saldana
President


Amanda Olhoudt, EDPF
Executive Director

Senate

State of Minnesota

To Congressman Tom Emmer,

I want to express in no uncertain terms my support for the City of Foley's application for federal funding regarding their Water Treatment Project. Upon completion of the project, a current existing well will be refurbished and a new well will be constructed. This modernized well and newly completed well would bring the City of Foley back into State requirements, provide better quality and safer drinking water to the residents of Foley, and help mitigate the current water discrepancy.

There have been numerous complaints from residents that the current water quality is subpar due to the colored water stemming from iron and manganese. The issue is so prevalent that the MN Dept. of Health has issued a Health Risk Advisory to the City of Foley. Moreover, the current water storage tank in Foley can only support 230,000 gallons, but the city has consistently consumed 230,000 over the past five years. This water discrepancy has not only created consumption issues but has placed the City of Foley outside of the State Standards requirement. Furthermore, the City of Foley completed their own system study in 2016 and the additional water storage and well would provide direct help to residents by: improving redundancy, reliability, and fire flow.

Any federal support for this project would not only be much appreciated by myself, but also the people directly benefiting from this. Everyone deserves to have safe and clean drinking water.

Sincerely,

Senator Nathan Wesenberg

District 10

2325 Minnesota Senate Building

95 University Ave West

Saint Paul, MN 55155-1206

Phone: 651-296-4913

Email: sen.nathan.wesenberg@senate.mn

Isaac Schultz
State Representative
District 10B



**Minnesota
House of
Representatives**

April 25, 2024

City of Foley
Ms. Sarah Brunn, City Administrator
251 4th Ave NE
P.O. Box 709
Foley, MN 56329

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Foley's proposed Water Treatment Plant and Well 6 Construction has strong merit, and I am eager to offer my support for these projects. Providing critical and core services is incredibly important for a city to develop and grow. Water infrastructure is among those core services. The City of Foley has both historically and currently supplied municipal drinking water to its residents, but water quality concerns have recently emerged and must be addressed.

In 2021, the Minnesota Department of Health issued a health risk advisory for Foley's Well Nos. 3, 4, and 5 entry points regarding manganese in the drinking water supply. Most concern is Well No. 3's Entry Point which the Minnesota Department of Health measured an average manganese level of **705 ug/L**. This number exceeds the EPA lifetime Health Advisory Level of **300 ug/L**. To sustain and grow the community within Foley, proper water infrastructure upgrades are necessary. When such infrastructure is lacking significant challenges arise to keep residents healthy and meet the latest water quality standards.

Reliable water is imperative to the health and safety of this community. Drinking water with significant levels of manganese over an extended period could manifest problems with memory, attention, and motor skills; infants drinking water containing too much manganese may result in learning and behavior problems. Thus, critical investments from the federal government are needed for the health and well-being of Foley and to bring the water quality in line with EPA and MDH standards.

Often, a municipality like Foley will have difficulty in maintaining and renovating infrastructure to meet new standards from the State or Federal Government for their community. These standards need to be met to ensure the citizens of our community have access to clean drinking water. Support from the Federal Government will assist in that endeavor by decreasing the financial burden the city will face and enhancing the speed at which the city will be able to implement this key improvement to the clean water infrastructure.

Thank you for considering the City of Foley's request for federal funding to meet clean drinking water standards. Together, we can work to support Foley's vision of a strong, vibrant, and growing rural Minnesota city and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isaac Schultz".

Isaac Schultz
State Representative
Minnesota House of Representatives



*Benton County's Mission:
Quality Public Service*

April 26, 2024

Ms. Sarah Brunn
City Administrator
City of Foley
251 4th AVE NE
P.O. Box 709
Foley, MN 56329

Ms. Brunn:

I am writing on behalf of Benton County to offer my support for the City of Foley's proposed Water Treatment Plant and Well 6 Construction. As the City of Foley's County Commissioner, I recognize the importance of being able to provide critical services to city residents. Water infrastructure is necessary to sustain and grow communities like Foley in addition to meeting the latest water quality standards.

A water treatment plant and new well will also help the city foster additional economic development by adding new businesses and much needed housing development. Federal funding can also be combined with an emerging contaminant grant and revolving loan provided by the State of MN's Public Facilities Authority.

Thank you for considering the City of Foley for federal funding. Together, we can work to support Foley's vision of a strong, vibrant and growing Minnesota city.

Sincerely,

Scott Johnson
Benton County Commissioner District 1

cc: Benton County Board

County Board:
Scott Johnson, District 1
Ed Popp, District 2
Steve Heinen, District 3
Jared Gapinski, District 4
Beth Schlangen, District 5

531 Dewey Street
P.O. Box 129
Foley, MN 56329
Benton County's Website:
www.co.benton.mn.us

(320) 968-5000 Main
(320) 968-5329 Fax
(320) 968-8842 TDD
Email Address:
info@co.benton.mn.us