



**March 18, 2026**

**Re: Letter of Support – Water Transmission Line Infrastructure Investment for Economic Growth**

To the Honorable Congressman Emmer,

On behalf of the Sartell Chamber of Commerce and our local business community, I am writing to express strong support for the City of Sartell’s request for federal funding to improve water transmission line infrastructure. Reliable and scalable utility infrastructure is one of the most critical factors in supporting economic development, business retention, and long-term community growth.

Sartell is one of the fastest-growing communities in Central Minnesota, serving as a regional hub for residents, healthcare, education, and business. However, that growth has placed significant strain on infrastructure systems that were originally designed for a much smaller population. From a business and economic development perspective, these infrastructure limitations create real challenges:

- **Constraints on New Development:** Limited capacity can delay or prevent new commercial and industrial projects from moving forward.
- **Impacts on Existing Businesses:** Businesses rely on consistent water supply, wastewater capacity, and system reliability to operate effectively and plan for expansion.

Sartell Chamber of Commerce: PO Box 82 Sartell MN 56377 | 320-258-6061



- **Risk to Tax Base Growth:** Without adequate infrastructure, the City’s ability to attract investment and grow its commercial and industrial tax base is significantly constrained.
- **Regional Competitiveness:** Communities with modern, resilient infrastructure are far more competitive in attracting employers, workforce housing, and private investment.

Investments in water capacity, transmission systems, and overall utility resilience are directly tied to job creation, increased tax base and fiscal stability, business expansion opportunities, attraction of regional and national employers, and long-term sustainability of the local economy. Sartell has demonstrated strong growth and forward-thinking leadership, but the scale of infrastructure investment needed exceeds what can be accomplished locally without federal partnership.

Supporting this WRDA request is an investment not only in infrastructure—but in economic vitality, workforce opportunity, and the continued success of the Sartell and central MN region. On behalf of the local business community, we strongly encourage your support of this request.

Sincerely,

*Nikki Sweeter*

**Executive Director**

Sartell Chamber of Commerce

Sartell Chamber of Commerce: PO Box 82 Sartell MN 56377 | 320-258-6061





# Sartell Fire & Rescue

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03/18/2026

The Honorable Tom Emmer

**Re: Letter of Support – Water Capacity & Transmission Infrastructure for Fire Protection**

Dear Mr. Emmer,

On behalf of the Sartell Fire and Rescue, I am writing to strongly support the City of Sartell's request for federal funding assistance for critical water transmission line infrastructure improvements. For fire protection, water capacity and transmission infrastructure are not optional—they are foundational to our ability to protect lives and property. Sartell's current system presents several challenges that directly impact fire response capabilities:

- **Limited Water Storage Capacity:** The City is already operating at or near its usable water storage limits, leaving little to no margin for high-demand emergency events such as structure fires or multiple simultaneous incidents.
- **Lack of Redundancy:** Portions of the system function as single points of failure. A break or disruption could significantly impact water availability for firefighting operations across large portions of the community.
- **Increased Risk During Drought & Peak Demand:** During hot, dry periods—when fire risk is highest—the system has already experienced difficulty meeting demand, leading to restrictions and increased strain on available supply.

Fire suppression depends on consistent pressure, volume, and system reliability. Without adequate water capacity and properly designed transmission infrastructure, response times, suppression effectiveness, and firefighter safety are all compromised. In emergency situations, seconds matter—and so does water availability. Enhancing storage, improving transmission capacity, and creating system redundancy will:

- Improve fire flow and pressure reliability
- Reduce risk to firefighters operating in hazardous conditions
- Protect residential, commercial, and industrial properties
- Support regional response capabilities for mutual aid

As Sartell continues to grow, including new residential developments and major manufacturing economic development drivers, ensuring adequate fire protection infrastructure is critical to maintaining community safety and insurability. We strongly support the City's request and urge federal investment in these essential water transmission line infrastructure improvements.

Sincerely,

**Chief Brent Ambuehl**  
Sartell Fire and Rescue



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for All of Us®

March 18, 2026

RE: Funding Letter of Support  
Sartell, MN Water Transmission Line

Dear Honorable Members of the Delegation:

As the City Engineer for the City of Sartell, I am writing to express strong support for funding the Sartell Water Transmission Line Improvement Project. This project is a critical infrastructure upgrade necessary to maintain system reliability, meet increasing hydraulic demands, and support the continued expansion of the Central Minnesota Healthcare Hub and the region's growing medical, educational, and advanced manufacturing sectors.

Sartell's water distribution system was originally designed for a community of approximately 10,000 residents. Today, the system serves nearly 20,000 residents and supports one of the most rapidly expanding healthcare and technology corridors in Minnesota. The continued growth of CentraCare's regional medical campus, the development of the new medical school, the expansion of medical research and clinical facilities, and the arrival of Niron Magnetics and other high-demand technical industries have significantly increased system load requirements.

The Southwest Water Treatment Plant, which provides a substantial portion of the City's treated water, is constrained by a single 16-inch transmission main that functions as a hydraulic bottleneck. Under peak conditions, velocities exceed recommended thresholds and dynamic pressures rise to levels that limit the plant's ability to deliver its full design capacity. These conditions reduce operational efficiency, increase mechanical stress on pumps and valves, and elevate the risk of main breaks or service interruptions. The lack of redundancy further compounds these risks. Approximately 8,400 feet of the existing transmission system operates as a single point of failure. A break, valve malfunction, or emergency shutdown in this segment would disconnect the SW WTP from the distribution system, directly affecting hospitals, clinics, research facilities, and high-tech employers whose operations depend on uninterrupted water service. This vulnerability is incompatible with the needs of a regional healthcare hub and emerging medical education center.

The proposed transmission line project resolves these deficiencies by constructing a second, properly sized, looped, and hydraulically efficient connection from the SW WTP to the trunk distribution system. The project will:

- Increase available flow from the SW WTP by reducing backpressure and enabling higher sustained pumping rates during peak demand.
- Reduce system velocities to within American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards, lowering the risk of pipe fatigue and extending asset life.
- Provide full redundancy for critical transmission segments, ensuring uninterrupted service to healthcare, medical education, and advanced manufacturing facilities.
- Improve system pressure stability across the service area, supporting fire protection requirements for large medical and industrial structures.

Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc., 2351 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 300, Sartell, MN 56377-2485

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- Enhance operational flexibility, allowing the City to maintain tower levels, manage peak events, and respond to emergencies without compromising service reliability.

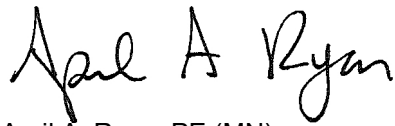
These improvements are essential to supporting the continued expansion of the Central Minnesota Healthcare Hub. CentraCare's ongoing campus growth, the establishment of the medical school, and the clustering of medical research and specialty care facilities require a water system capable of meeting high-volume, high-reliability demands. Similarly, Niron Magnetics and other advanced technology employers depend on consistent flow and pressure for manufacturing processes, cooling systems, and facility safety.

The City has managed its infrastructure responsibly, but the scale of this regional need exceeds local financial capacity, particularly following the loss of the Verso Paper Mill, which removed a significant portion of the City's tax base. External partnership is necessary to ensure that the infrastructure supporting Central Minnesota's healthcare, education, and technology economy remains reliable and resilient.

On behalf of the City of Sartell, I respectfully request your support for funding this critical project. The transmission line improvement is a foundational investment that will strengthen system performance, protect essential regional services, and ensure that the Central Minnesota Healthcare Hub continues to grow and thrive.

Sincerely,

SHORT ELLIOTT HENDRICKSON INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "April A. Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

April A. Ryan, PE (MN)  
City of Sartell Engineer  
(Lic. MN)



## SARTELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

03/18/2026

Chief Brandon Silgjord • Deputy Chief Wayne Schreiner

The Honorable Tom Emmer

### Re: Letter of Support – City of Sartell Water Transmission Line Infrastructure Improvements

Dear Mr. Emmer,

On behalf of the Department of Public Safety Department and Police Division, I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Sartell's request for federal investment in critical water transmission line infrastructure improvements.

From a public safety and emergency management perspective, reliable and resilient water infrastructure is essential to protecting life, property, and community stability. In Sartell, our current system is operating at or near capacity, which directly impacts our ability to respond effectively during emergencies. We need additional water transmission lines to properly meet public safety needs. Water capacity and system reliability play a critical role in several areas of public safety:

- **Emergency Response Reliability:** During large-scale incidents—including fires, natural disasters, or hazardous material events—adequate water supply and pressure are essential for coordinated response across police, fire, and EMS.
- **System Vulnerability & Redundancy:** Existing infrastructure includes known single points of failure that, if compromised, could disrupt water service, sanitation systems, and public safety operations citywide.
- **Public Health Protection:** Failures in water or sewer infrastructure can quickly escalate into public health emergencies, requiring law enforcement coordination for evacuations, road closures, and community safety measures.

Our first responders, rely on infrastructure that is dependable under stress—not just during routine operations, but during the most critical moments when our community needs it most. The City of Sartell is a growing regional hub, and its infrastructure must keep pace with that growth to ensure continued safety and service delivery. I am so very proud and thankful for the federal partnership we have maintained through your office these past years, and hopeful we can use this opportunity to continue that with this critical project needed to support our city.

Sincerely,

**Chief Brandon Silgjord**  
**Director of Public Safety**  
City of Sartell