

Wright Soil & Water Conservation District

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3/17/2026

The Honorable Tom Emmer
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Emmer,

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Buffalo's wastewater treatment plant filtration project.

Wright Soil and Water Conservation District has partnered with the City of Buffalo on stormwater retrofit projects and other efforts aimed at improving water quality. Through this work, the City has proven to be a dependable and engaged partner that understands the importance of protecting natural resources and investing in practical environmental improvements.

The proposed filtration project represents an important step in protecting the environment and improving water quality in the region. By reducing nutrient impacts and supporting healthier waterways, this project will provide lasting benefits to both the local community and downstream resources. It is a compliance requirement, but the City of Buffalo does appreciate protecting the environment.

The City of Buffalo has shown a consistent willingness to work collaboratively, including pursuing stormwater improvements and evaluating trading credits where appropriate and feasible. That partnership approach strengthens the value of this project and reflects the City's commitment to responsible environmental stewardship.

Given the significant cost of this project, outside funding support would be highly beneficial. Federal investment would help lessen the impact on local ratepayers while advancing an important project to meet watershed goals that serves broader public and environmental interests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Luke Johnson
District Manager
Wright Soil and Water Conservation District

*Whirl*tronics INC.

Where Metal Takes Shape

208 CENTENNIAL DRIVE / BUFFALO, MINNESOTA 55313 / TELEPHONE (763) 682-1716 / FAX (763) 682-2197

3/17/2026

The Honorable Tom Emmer
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Emmer,

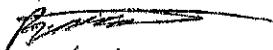
On behalf of Whirltronics, I am writing to express support for the City of Buffalo's application for grant funding to complete a wastewater treatment plant facility study.

As a commercial customer in Buffalo, dependable wastewater service is extremely important to our business operations, but so is affordability. The city already carries high sewer rates, and any future system needs without outside funding support could place additional pressure on local businesses and utility customers like myself.

From what I have been told, the facility study is an important step in identifying the most practical and cost-effective path forward for the City's wastewater system. The study has shown large scale filters are needed to meet phosphorus compliance which creates a project costing over 20M dollars. That impact on local business if not funded by state and federal aid would have negative implications for Buffalo's economy. Our company has significant interest in the project not only to meet compliance but also requests a strong need for grant funding.

We support the City's efforts to pursue funding for this study and filtration project. We encourage consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



3/17/2026

Brent Elstad
Director
Whirltronics.

Buffalo

CITY OF BUFFALO, MINNESOTA



3/18/2026

The Honorable Tom Emmer
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Emmer

Please support the City of Buffalo's grant application to help pay for a very expensive wastewater treatment plant filtration project.

The City has been diligently working for a number of years to meet increasingly-stringent regulations. These regulations flow from the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Under this federal law, state's must adopt water quality standards to protect, maintain and improve the quality of the nation's surface waters.

Since the federal government imposes this regulation on cities that operate wastewater treatment plants, it ought to help pay for necessary plant improvements.

To meet existing standards, City of Buffalo residents and businesses are already carrying a heavy burden. Piling on new standards may better water quality downstream but, situated as we are, it will not improve the quality of our very own Lake Pulaski or Buffalo lake.

Sure, we all want clean water. However, it is maddening that local citizens spend millions to meet water quality standards only to have regulatory agencies 'move the goalposts' as our local financial situation is set to improve. To better plan, finance and build this necessary, expensive infrastructure, we—the City of Buffalo, its citizens and business ratepayers—need regulatory certainty.

Thank you for your help. We look forward to working with you and others in this process to improve the waters of the state of Minnesota and those downstream.

Sincerely,

Steve Downer
Mayor
City of Buffalo



CITY OF BUFFALO, MINNESOTA



3/17/2026

The Honorable Tom Emmer
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Emmer

As Utilities Director for the City of Buffalo, I am writing to express strong support for our application for grant funding to complete a wastewater treatment plant filter project.

This project is critical to helping the City meet a compliance schedule for phosphorus reduction. The future of its wastewater treatment system in Buffalo will be challenged through several important lenses: regulatory compliance, environmental protection, long-term operational sustainability, and affordability for our ratepayers.

Buffalo has already made substantial investments in sewer infrastructure, and debt from prior sewer projects remains outstanding. We are an A-Class plant that incinerates the bio solids and met the prior compliance with ease. That existing debt load continues to create pressure on the utility and limits the City's ability to fund additional major improvements solely through local rates and charges. We are currently trying to pay of debt loans from previous capital improvements that are 4M – 5M annually up until 2029. We have the highest sewer rates in our region, according to a rate study done and published by AE2S engineering firm. Further rate shock will create economic impacts for our commercial and industrial customers and residential customers. At the same time, the City must continue planning for compliance and responsible environmental stewardship.

Our operators, with help from Bolton and Menk, have completed various tests and have found no alternatives to incorporating filters into our treatment process. A facility study, that was built with the operators and confirmed with Bolton Menk, shows the path to filters. The cost is over 20 M dollars. Grant support for this effort would help reduce financial pressure on current ratepayers while allowing the City to responsibly plan for future wastewater needs. I would be happy to speak further about the multiple variables we have accomplished and protect as we navigate the best path for our City!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Meusburger

Utilities & IT Director
City of Buffalo – Buffalo Municipal Utilities



CITY OF BUFFALO, MINNESOTA



3/17/2026

The Honorable Tom Emmer
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Emmer,

I am writing in support of the City of Buffalo's grant application to fund a wastewater treatment plant facility filtration project.

As Wastewater Superintendent, I view this request through the lens of compliance, operations, and the day-to-day realities of running the system. Our team has worked diligently to meet permit requirements and improve treatment performance. To date, we have attempted three separate tests to achieve compliance without filters, but those efforts have not been successful. These tests included chemical pilot testing, optimization, and chemical overfeeding.

Based on our operational experience, additional evaluation is needed to determine the most effective and sustainable path forward for the facility. Bolton and Menk has completed the study and determined the only way to maintain compliance is to install filters into our treatment process for physical phosphorus removal. This new regulation puts intense pressure on our operation and maintenance budgets, other capitals need, so state and federal funding will be required to meet compliance and protect our environment.

I strongly support this application and the need for this work.

Sincerely,

Ray Wurm
Wastewater Superintendent
City of Buffalo