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VERMONT

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June 24, 2021

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Merkley and Ranking Member Murkowski,

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested in the Fiscal Year 2022 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Sincerely,



BERNARD SANDERS
UNITED STATES SENATOR

**Sanders, Bernard(I-VT) Interior and Environment
Congressionally Directed Spending Requests**

Recipient Name	Project Purpose	Project Location	Amount Requested (\$000)
Addison County Community Trust	Addison County Community Trust (ACCT) is a well-established regional nonprofit housing developer, which owns and operates permanently affordable housing for low-income and vulnerable Vermonters, including seniors and people with disabilities. ACCT is embarking on a ten-year plan to redevelop its aging manufactured housing infrastructure in multiple communities, which were originally developed in the 1960s and are well past the end of their useful lifespan. The first three projects in the plan are community septic systems for Lindale and Brookside Mobile Home Parks, which include 67 and 48 homes respectively, as well as a new pump house at Vaughn's Mobile Home Park, which includes nine units, three of which are Zero Energy Modular homes. This project is a good use of taxpayer funds because, without this funding these communities are facing closures that would result in hundreds of low-income Vermonters being displaced in the middle of an affordable housing crisis. Further, funding for these three projects will reduce the need for rent increases on the lots, which the low-income residents of these manufactured housing communities can ill afford.	Addison County VT	\$500
Town of Barre	This project, will replace a gravity fed wastewater ejector station with a submersible and energy-efficient wastewater pump station that will address service delivery concerns and sustainability of waste water systems. Specifically, the upgrade will increase Million Gallons per Day (MDG) capacity by 73 percent, improve service for residential customers, allow development of up to 32 subdivisions, support State of Vermont investments in the Washington County Railroad, retain 8 businesses in the community, as well as retain 320 jobs. The current system poses risks to public and environmental health, as it is located approximately 4 feet from the Washington County Railroad and a mere 13 yards from the Stevens Branch River, which feeds the Winooski River. In the event of failure, sewage overflow would have adverse impacts on drinking water, ecosystems, recreation in downstream communities, and disrupts rail service during cleanup. The new system is expected to be located across the street, away from the river and train tracks. This state and local project is a good use of taxpayer funds because it will address a critical wastewater need while also protecting human and environmental health. Planning assistance for this project is on Vermont's forecasted Draft FY21 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan (IUP). While the entire project is not on the IUP yet, it is an important project that will address a number of challenges for a relatively small amount of federal investment.	Barre VT	\$143
Town of Bethel	The Town of Bethel's plan to upgrade its drinking water infrastructure is on Vermont's Draft FY21 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan (IUP), and will replace a galvanized water line with a lead component. While undertaking this major infrastructure project, which will involve removing part of a road and repaving, the town will also improve stormwater problems by adding a new stormwater drain and eight new storm drain basins. Lastly, the town will improve fire suppression capabilities by installing two new fire hydrants. This project will ensure access to safe drinking water, improve water quality by reducing phosphorus via stormwater runoff, improve fire safety, and encourage economic development in the Town of Bethel. This project is a good use of taxpayer funds because it will help a small, rural town ensure its residents have safe drinking water, while simultaneously improving fire safety and hazardous drainage issues.	Bethel VT	\$600
Milton Mobile Home Cooperative	The Milton Mobile Home Cooperative (MMHC) is a nonprofit, limited equity, 100-unit manufactured housing community. The community was built in the late 1960s and was purchased by the residents in 2012. This low-income community is currently at 100 percent occupancy and seldom has vacancies. MMHC is a critical source of affordable homeownership in Chittenden County, which has one of the highest costs of living in the state. With the requested funding, MMHC would execute a long-planned water and sewer project, which is fully designed and permitted, with multiple additional funding commitments in place. Without this federal funding, the financial viability and community health of this critical homeownership opportunity in Milton, Vermont is at risk. MMHC member-owners understand their role in this project and have voted to borrow at their maximum capacity to realize this project. This project is a good use of taxpayer funds because it will improve wastewater treatment and delivery of safe drinking water, while stabilizing lot rents for low-income, elderly, and disabled residents.	Chittenden County VT	\$994

Town of Montgomery	This project, which is on Vermont's current (FY20) and draft (FY21) Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plans (IUPs), will construct basic public wastewater infrastructure in Montgomery's Village Centers to replace existing failing on-lot septic systems and resolve a significant environmental and public health risks. The federally-designated Wild and Scenic Trout River runs through Montgomery, and 40% of on-site septic systems in the village are in direct conflict with the Town's water system's source water protection area. Further, 19 existing systems within the service area have been identified as troubled or failing. Currently, 92 percent of systems in the service area are on small lots without suitable replacement options that would meet state requirements, restricting growth and suppressing property values. Banks will not finance homes or commercial enterprises on these lots due to the inability of borrowers to afford replacement systems, disproportionately affecting lower-income families. Engaged community leadership has already successfully leveraged federal, state, and local resources, but this additionally congressionally-directed spending is needed to make this project viable. This project is a good use of taxpayer funds because it will have significant economic, environmental, and public health benefits for the area residents by improving failing water infrastructure while creating or retaining over 100 jobs.	Montgomery VT	\$2,870
Pittsford Village Farm	The nonprofit Pittsford Village Farm (PVF) features two historic structures, an 18th century farmhouse and 19th century barn. The buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2018, after extensive community engagement, a nonprofit organization was formed and charged with creating a community gathering space including a child care center. With the requested funding, PVF will conduct preconstruction activities including: architectural, structural, and electrical plans; civil engineering design for site modifications, roadwork, parking and drainage; and other various required studies and consultants including Environmental Review, Historic Preservation Review, and Archeology Review. The majority of this funding will be used for the initial phase of restoration in the western part of the building that will house the child care center. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because it restores a farm in the center of a rural village that is on the National Historic Register, and because it provides a child care center that is needed for the community to flourish.	Pittsford VT	\$400
Townshend Historical Society	The West Townshend Stone Arch Bridge was built in 1910 by Townshend farmer-turned-stonemason James Otis Follett and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It is at the heart of the West Townshend Historic District. At a span of 37 feet, it is Follett's longest bridge in Townshend. While its stone arch remains structurally sound and it remains open to traffic, the bridge is in urgent need of repair. Erosion over its 111 year lifespan caused by weather events, snow plowing, water runoff, and, most recently, increased use by heavy trucks and equipment, threatens its stability and will ultimately lead to structural failure and closure. Repair and restoration will include removal of the present parapets and road bed materials, and the dismantling and rebuilding the spandrel walls using the same dry stone masonry techniques as used by the original builder. This project is a good use of taxpayer funds because it will preserve a historic structure that is an important part of the history and heritage of Vermont, while preserving this important transportation route.	Townshend VT	\$221