



Franklin County Fiscal Court

321 West Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

April 6, 2021

Huston Wells

Franklin County Judge/Executive

The Honorable Andy Barr

Lexington District Office
2709 Old Rosebud Rd., Suite 100
Lexington, KY 40509

Re: Support for Franklin County Farmdale Sanitation District Interceptor System

Dear Representative Barr:

I would like to thank you the years of assistance and support you and your staff have given Franklin County through contact with the EPA for the Farmdale Sanitation District's goal for design of the Interceptor System to eliminate failing and overburdened package wastewater treatment plants and construct a system to convey wastewater to a pump station to direct the flow to the City of Frankfort for treatment. With your help, we have come so far. The promise for reliable service and protection of properties and our natural waterways seems possible. We would like to enlist your support once more to ask that the Farmdale Interceptor System be presented as an appropriation project through Congress.

Our efforts to correct the severe sanitary sewer problems in the Farmdale area now span nearly two decades. Franklin County formed the Farmdale Sanitation District in 2004 after recognizing the need for a solution for the aging, failing, and poorly maintained privately owned package plants that serve the area. In 2016 and 2017, the Sanitation District took ownership of six package plants. More than 1,000 households flow to the package plants which had been cited continually by the Franklin County Health Department and Ky Division of Water for not meeting discharge limits and bypassing sewage straight to area waterways. Since that time, the District, with the assistance of Franklin County Fiscal Court has implemented repairs and improvements to the collection systems in the subdivisions and negotiated through multiple options to come up with a design which will allow the Farmdale area to connect to a new pump station being constructed by the City of Frankfort to pump to their facility for treatment. This project has the blessing of the Kentucky Division of Water.

The Farmdale Interceptor Project would enable connection by six initial package plants with the other three plants in the area to follow as well as households on private septic systems which are generally ineffective due to the soil conditions of the area. No longer will raw sewage be a threat to the health of residents and the pollution of properties, creeks, and streams.

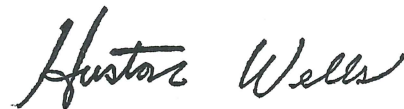


Another benefit of the Interceptor Project would make possible the extension of the system down the 127 Corridor for economic development. Franklin County is in great need of infrastructure to property for industrial and residential building. There is an extremely limited amount of land available for industrial development and an extreme housing shortage, both of which have not allowed the local economy to grow, despite great interest in the area.

The estimate for the Interceptor Project is \$12,000,000 at this time with an additional \$2,000,000 needed to begin an extension of the system down the Corridor. Although funding through grants and loans was always anticipated, the census statistics are skewed from a few large property owners in the area and does not reflect the income of the area as LMI, which it most certainly is. The amount needed for the project would push the rates to a point which residents could not afford. Franklin County Fiscal Court has worked with the District in the past, providing matching funds for federal grants, administrative and staff assistance, and worked closely with agencies such as the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, Bluegrass Area Development District, the Kentucky Division of Water, and many others on the District's behalf. We intend to use some of the funds received through the American Rescue Plan, if allowed, to provide match for this project. There are other areas of Franklin County which are not served at all by water and sewer services, and we are addressing those areas as well. We also recognize the need to match state funds for projects for Broadband connectivity and will continue to respond to the pandemic with assistance to multiple sectors for recovery. We plan to leverage the ARPA funds as much as possible with other grant opportunities to help Franklin County not just recover but become resilient and make the Capital County an even better place to live and work.

Once again, thank you for your assistance in the past and we sincerely appreciate being considered for an appropriation. God bless you and your staff in your efforts for the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Sincerely,

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

Huston Wells
Judge Executive
Franklin County Fiscal Court