



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Greg
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Alexander
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
City of Caseville
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
6767 Main St. Caseville, MI 48725
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
City of Caseville
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Greg Alexander | District 98
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. Caseville is a community heavily dependent on tourism, with a population that is 652 year-round to over 25,000 during specific times of the summer. A City with only 652 year-round residents that is fiscally responsible for infrastructure that must support a population that increases to 25,000 is a unique challenge faced by Michigan's waterfront communities, and this CDS funding would have a significant and decades long positive impact on Caseville.

The Water System and Water Treatment Plant Improvements will include the following:

- Water Treatment Plant
 - o Replace Pumps
 - o Replace SCADA System
 - o Replace Turbidity Meters
- Water Distribution System
 - o Replacement of old undersized 4-Inch water mains throughout the city that are over 50 years old.
 - o Replacement of Inoperable main line valves
 - o Replacement of obsolete fire hydrants

Justification for Replacement of Aging Water Infrastructure

1. Water Mains

Older water mains, particularly those made of cast iron or other outdated materials, are prone to corrosion, scaling, and frequent breakages. These issues result in:

- Increased maintenance costs due to emergency repairs.
- Reduced water quality from internal corrosion and sediment buildup.
- Service disruptions to residents and businesses during main breaks.
- Water loss and inefficiency, contributing to non-revenue water through leaks.

Replacing aged water mains with modern materials (e.g., ductile iron, HDPE, or PVC) improves system reliability, reduces maintenance, and enhances public confidence in the water supply system.

2. Inoperable Main Line Valves

Valves are critical components for isolating sections of the water system during maintenance or emergencies. Inoperable valves:

- Prevent effective system control, forcing larger areas to be shut off for minor repairs.
- Delay emergency response, increasing downtime and customer dissatisfaction.
- Violate industry best practices which recommend valve exercising and replacement schedules.

Rehabilitation or replacement ensures quicker response during failures, minimizes water service interruptions, and improves operational efficiency.

3. Inoperable or Obsolete Fire Hydrants

Functional fire hydrants are essential for public safety and firefighting. Inoperable or outdated hydrants present serious risks:

- Reduced fire response capability, endangering lives and property.
- Non-compliance with fire codes or insurance requirements, potentially raising premiums or failing inspections.
- Leaks or pressure issues impacting both firefighting and surrounding water service.

Replacing hydrants with modern, standardized models ensures dependable access for fire departments and helps maintain system pressure and flow standards

The Improvements do not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.

No Extra Compensation Is Provided Post-Contract

- Water system improvements typically involve contracts awarded through a public

bidding process.

- All compensation is agreed upon in advance and disbursed according to contract terms.
- Contractors are not paid retroactively or beyond the agreed amount after completing their work.

Payments are for Public Infrastructure, Not Individuals

- Funds are used for materials, labor, and infrastructure, not to personally enrich a public officer or contractor beyond what was agreed.
- Improvements serve a public purpose — such as ensuring safe drinking water or upgrading aging pipelines — which is lawful.

Public Purpose Doctrine

- Courts have upheld that public funds may be used if the project serves public interest (e.g., *Waterford School District v State Board of Education*).
- Water system projects clearly meet this standard — clean water is a basic public health necessity.

Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms

- Municipal contracts for such projects typically involve oversight, public hearings, and auditing — all of which ensure compliance with constitutional and statutory limits.

9. **Attach documents here if needed:**

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. **The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.**

1500000

11. **Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.**

["None"]

12. **Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:**

Local unit government

13. **For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?**

Not applicable

14. **For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?**

Not applicable

15. **For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?**

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

n/a

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

Spring 2026 - Fall 2026

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes

**Caseville Township
6767 Main Street
P.O. Box 519
Caseville, Michigan 48725
989-856-3053**

March 10, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

The Caseville Township Board is dedicated to providing our community with safe drinking water.

We are a small rural community with many older citizens, families, and children. We experience an influx of seasonal residents throughout the summer season. It is imperative that all citizens feel secure in the quality of the drinking water provided.

The Caseville Township Board strongly supports the proposed upgrades to the City of Caseville's water distribution system and water plants to ensure the continuance of safe drinking water for our residents.

The Caseville Township Board supports the efforts of the City of Caseville to provide safe water through the application of grants to complete this project and encourages the approval of this grant to complete the necessary upgrades to the water plant and distribution system.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Willenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ben" being more prominent and the last name "Willenberg" written in a continuous script.

Ben Willenberg
Caseville Township Supervisor

Caseville Public Schools

6609 Vine Street - Caseville, MI 48725 - Phone: 989-856-2311 - Fax: 989-856-8611



03.07.25

To Whom It May Concern:

It is of utmost importance to our school to have the ability to provide safe drinking water to our students, staff, and community. In most communities, especially smaller, rural, communities such as ours, the school is relied on as a safe space for learning, recreation, and activities of all sorts.

Our children rely on safe water for drinking and handwashing, but also for the cleaning of our facilities. "Cleaning" done with contaminated or dirty water would really just spread disease. Likewise, sickness spreads quickly within a school system, especially without the proper means (such as safe water) to mitigate the spread. The students depend on the school to provide a healthy learning environment and our ability to do so can be the determining factor on their life long hygiene habits and behaviors.

Our staff would also likely not continue as employees within our school system if safe water could not be provided to them during the course of their work day. Staff depend on safe hydration and clean conditions in order to properly do the extremely important job of educating our community's youth.

Finally, our school hosts many public events for the community throughout the year from weekly athletic competitions to pickleball practice, to the world-wide beloved Cheeseburger Festival. Without safe water, these community events would become unsafe as well and, as a town that very much relies on tourism and public attendance, our local economy would likely be in severe danger.

It is my hope that you will consider providing a grant to the City of Caseville's water treatment plant and water distribution system so that they may complete the upgrades to their facility that are needed to keep our school and community a safe place. Thank you for your consideration!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Ewald', written in a cursive style.

Kenneth Ewald
Superintendent
Caseville Public School
(989) 856-2311



March 11, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the grant application submitted by Caseville, Michigan for the upgrade of its water treatment plant. The proposed project holds immense promises for sustainable development and enhanced quality of life in the small rural community of Caseville.

The need for this upgrade arises from the growing demands on the current water treatment infrastructure, which is increasingly inefficient and inadequate to meet the needs of the community, ensuring access to safe and clean drinking water for all residents, and addressing environmental concerns related to wastewater management. The positive impact of this upgrade cannot be overstated, particularly in a small, close-knit community where the well-being of every individual is of utmost importance.

The benefits of this project extend beyond the immediate improvement in water quality and availability. The upgrade will pave the way for economic growth, attracting new businesses and industries to the area, and fostering a more robust and resilient local economy. It will also bolster public health by reducing the risk of water-borne diseases and ensuring a healthier environment for families and children. Furthermore, the upgrade aligns with the community's commitment to environmental stewardship, promoting sustainability and conservation in the management of water resources.

It is evident that the upgrade of the water treatment plant in Caseville, Michigan is a vital investment in the future well-being of the community. The grant funding will not only address pressing infrastructure needs but also lay the groundwork for a more prosperous and sustainable future. I strongly urge you to consider this application favorably, recognizing the significance of this project in empowering a small rural community to thrive and flourish.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require any additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am more than willing to provide any further support needed to advance this essential project.

Respectfully,

Charlotte Braun
Administrator



CASEVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P.O. Box 122 • Caseville, Michigan 48725

(989) 856-3818 • Fax: (989) 856-2596 • Toll Free: 1-800-606-1347 • www.casevillechamber.com

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March 7th 2025

To whom it may concern:

The Caseville Chamber of Commerce would like to 100% support of the City of Caseville's water treatment plant in seeking a water quality grant and adding items to the water distribution system. It is of utmost importance for City of Caseville, Caseville Township and Pigeon MI to keep our drinking water safe.

The Caseville Chamber of Commerce promotes Caseville tourism with our many festivals that we put on throughout the whole year. The Cheeseburger in Caseville festival is one of the largest festivals in Michigan, bringing in over 200,000.00 visitors to our community during the 10-day festival. It is vital that the City of Caseville is able to supply safe and clean drinking water to our residents, businesses, schools, campgrounds and the many tourists that come to Caseville throughout the year. Receiving this grant would also help keep water cost affordable for the many low-income families and elderly that reside in our area.

Thank you

Steve Louwers

Caseville Chamber of Commerce President

OAKWOOD

Senior Citizen Housing

6905 N. Caseville Road

Caseville, MI 48725

989.856.3323 Fax 989.856.2552 casevillehousing@comcast.net



Caseville Housing Commission



Chairperson:

Sharon Kelly

Commissioners:

Patricia Stirrett

Robert Given

Louis Johnson

Daniel Fortsch

Executive Director:

Kelly Howard

March 11, 2025

Re: Water Quality Grant - City of Caseville

To whom it may concern,

We are writing this letter in support of a Water Quality Grant that the City of Caseville is seeking for upgrades at the water-treatment plant and the water-distribution system. Everyone on this planet is very aware of the importance of clean and safe drinking water. Communities depend on our cities to make sure they are providing those who live here and those who visit our area with safe drinking water.

Oakwood Senior Citizen Housing is a community of 47 apartments, run through the Caseville Housing Commission. We house low-income residents who are mainly elderly and disabled. Having clean, clear water for our community and all of the areas Caseville supplies water to, is extremely important and a basic essential-need for all who live here and visit here, as Caseville is a major tourist town. In the past there have been drinking-water quality issues, especially in the Summer. The City of Caseville has been working on fixing the issue and with your help of grant funding, the issue will be remedied.

Safe drinking water is absolutely a must, I'll repeat- a must – for everyone in every community. We are confident the City of Caseville will greatly benefit from receiving a grant for water-treatment plant upgrades and upgrading our water-distribution system. We appreciate the City of Caseville cares so much about those who live here and are seeking ways to keep our community healthy.

Sincerely,

Kelly Howard

Executive Director

Oakwood Senior Citizen Housing