

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 9, 2007

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson
Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I want to call to your attention a meritorious project identified by the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations in its Fiscal Year 2007 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill and ask your assistance to ensure project award and completion. The Senate Committee recommends that EPA provide \$500,000 through the EPA's State & Tribal Assistance Grants, Infrastructure Grants / Congressional Priorities account to improve water and sewer infrastructure at Lake Murray State Park in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Lake Murray State Park is Oklahoma's oldest and largest state park. Constructed during the Works Progress Administration, the park includes a 50-unit lodge, 81 cottages, nine campgrounds, 506 tent and RV campsites, three group campsites, four floating villas, and additional recreational opportunities. Its antiquated infrastructure is not sufficient to meet the existing demand.

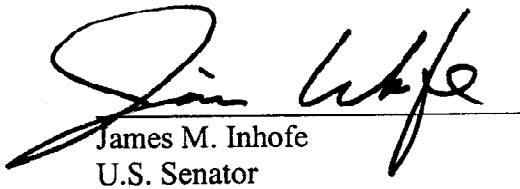
State and local marketing studies reveal that this 12,500-acre state park is underutilized because its facilities are in decline. Officials are countering with plans to develop a new lodge on the site of the existing one. Water and sewer infrastructure must be upgraded to handle both current usage and prepare for this development. Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department engineering studies call for additional sewer lagoons, an expanded lift station, replacement, and extension of sewer lines and replacement of inadequate water lines. The State of Oklahoma is supportive of this project, since a detailed review of occupancy projections and revenue comparisons for comparable regional facilities reveals a significant return for state and local coffers. Furthermore, federal investment will result in a substantial job growth in a distressed area.

We estimate that this \$500,000 project will provide an immediate economic impact of at least \$3.5 million in FY 2007 and facilitate the creation of 200 jobs. Conservative out-year projections indicate a continuing impact of at least \$5 million and the creation of perhaps 500 jobs. Priority should be given to this request because this area is financially distressed; has begun implementing a long-term sanitary sewer improvement plan; and will apply for Clean Water Act SRF monies. State and local authorities will provide the required 45 percent match of federal assistance.

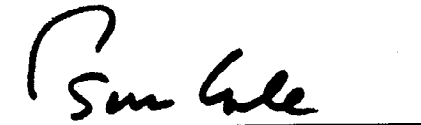
We are well aware that the decision to fund FY 2007 EPA operations through a continuing resolution creates difficulties for this project and others. However, because this effort has the potential to significantly improve lives and economies across southern Oklahoma, we respectfully request that you identify a funding mechanism by which to ensure project completion.

We appreciate your consideration of this important request and look forward to your response. Should you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Suzanne Meledeo with Senator Inhofe at (202) 224-4721 or Chris Caron with Congressman Cole at (202) 225-6165. Once again, thank you for your consideration of these worthy projects.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
U.S. Senator



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 15 2007

OFFICE OF
WATER

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
United States Senator
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

Thank you for your letter of January 9, 2007, to Administrator Johnson regarding the water and sewer infrastructure project at Lake Murray State Park in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Your letter expressed concern over a \$500,000 shortfall in funding for this project, and the need for the water and sewer infrastructure improvements at the state park to proceed. You also requested that we identify a funding mechanism to ensure this project's completion.

The State Revolving Funds, both Clean Water and Drinking Water, are the preeminent programs through which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and states are able to provide funding for water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Since the inception of these State Revolving Funds, they have grown to become the largest federal funding programs for water and wastewater infrastructure across the country. Your letter indicated an interest in utilizing the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), and we strongly encourage the Lake Murray State Park project planners to contact the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, which administers the CWSRF in the State of Oklahoma, as soon as possible to discuss possible options. It has also come to our attention that both the City of Ardmore and the Oklahoma Department of Tourism have existing loans with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and it may be possible to incorporate the Lake Murray State Park project, or portions of the project, within these existing loans.

Apart from the State Revolving Funds, only congressional earmarks are currently being utilized by EPA to provide grants for water and wastewater infrastructure projects. As your letter acknowledges, the current budgetary continuing resolution makes it difficult to fund these special projects at this time.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Christina Moody, in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-0260.

Thank you

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B H Grumbles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and "H".

Benjamin H. Grumbles
Assistant Administrator