



"Dry Prairie Rural Water is committed to delivering clean, affordable and dependable drinking water that will improve the quality of life and create economic opportunities throughout northeast Montana."

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May 11, 2026

Senator Steve Daines
Senator Tim Sheehy
Representative Troy Downing
Representative Ryan Zinke

Dear Senator Daines, Senator Sheehy, Representative Downing and Representative Zinke:

Dry Prairie Rural Water (Dry Prairie) is excited to have the opportunity to support the Federal Authorization of our neighboring project, the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority (DRWA). When complete, we understand that the DRWA Project will serve about 13,000 people. This is comparable to our project which is scheduled for completion late next year. The source water for their system will be the Fort Peck Lake or the Missouri River, and that will assure the DRWA users of the same high quality and reliable water that our users enjoy from the Missouri River.

The DRWA rural residents are currently dependent on water supplies that are of poor quality and quantity. Many farms and ranches have to haul water to their homes and livestock from nearby towns. Some residents who have wells cannot drink the water or water lawns and gardens with it due to excessive levels of contaminants in the water.

Quality water for livestock consumption is a growing national issue. Because water supplies for livestock can be limited or contain contaminants that interfere with animal performance, potable water for livestock is providing innumerable benefits to the livestock producer. Livestock with access to potable drinking water increase their feed intake, leading to more weight gain. This is another major beneficial use within the Dry Prairie service area, especially during seasonal or extended drought, and greatly assists with the rate structure we have for all users (towns, rural farms, livestock, commercial and industrial).

The many years of hard work that Congress and The Bureau of Reclamation have put into developing these regional water projects has been revolutionary, and opens our towns and countryside to a new level of quality of life and economic development.

Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority has the full support of Dry Prairie. We hope that their request for Federal Authorization is granted so that they can proceed with the construction of this truly life-changing water project.

Sincerely,

Joni Sherman
General Manager