



April 3, 2024

TOWN OF RICHMOND

RICHMOND TOWN CENTER
203 Bridge Street, P.O. Box 285
Richmond, Vermont 05477



Senator Bernie Sanders
1 Church St.
3rd Floor
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Senator Sanders,

On behalf of the Town of Richmond Water and Sewer Commission I am writing to support the Town of Richmond's request for Congressionally Directed Spending for the Richmond Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade.

The Town of Richmond seeks assistance to renovate the septage receiving and processing facilities which are part of a larger proposed upgrade to the Richmond Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Town of Richmond accepts up to 4.8 million gallons of septage per year and provides a critical service to area septage haulers and property owners not connected to a municipal wastewater system. The septage receiving facilities have reached the end of their useful life and present safety concerns for the operations staff. The existing conditions put the facility at risk of a major breakdown which would force the facility to cease accepting septage. If this were to happen it would place a major strain on local haulers and septage receiving facilities. Local haulers would be forced to travel further to offload their septage, likely increasing rates to customers. Other area facilities would be asked to receive more septage and may not have the capacity to treat septage given limits in place at some facilities, which would force haulers to travel even further. Maintaining ongoing operations of the Richmond septage receiving facility is critical to property owners in Chittenden County and the surrounding area.

Providing more housing is a goal of the Town and of the State. The availability of reliable and reasonably priced septage receiving facilities is key to developing more housing on properties that are not connected to a municipal water system. With 55% of current homes in Vermont relying on a septic system, it will be impossible to reach our housing goals by developing homes solely on municipal water and sewer systems. The ongoing operation of the Richmond WWTF's septage receiving system plays an important role in housing development.

In closing, we see septage receiving in Richmond as benefiting Richmond, Chittenden County, and the State of Vermont by providing a critical service that aids current property owners, protects the environment, and allows for future housing development. Please reach out to Richmond Town Manager Josh Arneson at 802-434-5170 or jarneson@richmondvt.gov if you have any questions or would like a tour of the facility.

Sincerely,
DocuSigned by:

Morgan Wolaver

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Morgan Wolaver, Richmond Water and Sewer Commission Chair on behalf of the entire Richmond Water and Sewer Commission