

**RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING THROUGH THE
EPA STAG INTERIOR SUBCOMMITTEE GRANT TO SUPPORT THE UPGRADE
AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ERNEST E. JONES WASTEWATER TREATMENT
PLANT IN THE CITY OF STARKVILLE**

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the City of Starkville, Mississippi (the “Board”), acting for and on behalf of the residents and citizens of Starkville and the future customers of the Starkville Utilities Department do hereby find and determine as follows:

1. The City of Starkville, the county seat of Oktibbeha County, and the home of Mississippi State University has experienced unabated growth over the past four decades.
2. The wastewater treatment plant has served the citizens of Oktibbeha County and the City of Starkville since its original construction in 1979 and its expansion in 1988 and upgrade in 2001. It now also serves not only the City of Starkville but Mississippi State’s primary campus and other parts of Oktibbeha County through an agreement with Mississippi State University.
3. The City of Starkville has been aggressively working toward a structured plan that will provide the necessary replacements to the equipment which has exceeded its useful life. This plan allows for continued operation in the most efficient and effective and safest manner currently required by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
4. The focus of the Community Project Funding STAG grant is to improve and support basic infrastructure improvements under Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq. to underserved areas and to rural areas that are desirous of improving the quality of life and receiving basic services. This sewer project appropriately addresses those federal and state concerns by extending additional service opportunities to areas that currently cannot be served due to wastewater plant infrastructure age limitations while addressing the needed upgrades to maintain a high quality of service to current customers
5. The City of Starkville has not neglected the obligation to upgrade our facilities and has funded upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant to address sustainability and long-term solutions. The recent investment of facilities and treatment processes to convert the sludge to Class A biosolids is an example of the future focus and proactive management of the City’s wastewater treatment responsibility.
6. The City has invested in a comprehensive engineering report to address the current status of the wastewater treatment plant, facilities and processes and capacity in order to adequately serve the community for existing customers as well as long-term projected growth.
7. That engineering report has revealed critical elements that must be addressed quickly to prevent failures, compliance issues or unsafe conditions from escalating to reach unacceptable levels of possible permit violations impacting all parties served.

8. The use of the STAG grant will be a direct and immediate benefit to the current residents; allow for compliance as well as future growth and expansion in the underserved areas. It will thus be a responsible use of the funds from taxpayers' dollars. The proposed improvements will affect directly those who pay into the system with a return on that investment through tangible, impactful and daily results of such an investment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen of the City of Starkville do find that:

THE APPLICATION FOR A COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING GRANT REQUEST FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE UNITED STATES SENATE IS THE PRUDENT AND MOST RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE QUALITY SEWER SERVICE FOR THE RESIDENTS AND CUSTOMERS OF THE STARKVILLE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT AND THAT SUCH AN APPLICATION IS IN LINE WITH THE INTENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION.

Upon the motion of Alderman Jeffrey Rupp, duly seconded by Alderman Kim Moreland for the Board of Aldermen to approve the Resolution, the Board of Aldermen voted after discussion, in favor of the foregoing resolution as follows:

Alderman Kim Moreland	Voted: Yea
Alderman Sandra Sistrunk	Voted: Yea
Alderman Jeffrey Rupp	Voted: Yea
Alderman Mike Brooks	Voted: Yea
Alderman Hamp Beatty	Voted: Yea
Alderman Roy A'. Perkins	Voted: Yea
Alderman Henry Vaughn, Sr.	Voted: Yea

The motion having received the foregoing vote of the Governing Body, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted.

This the 1st day of April, 2025


D. Lynn Spruill, Mayor

Attest


Lesa Hardin, City Clerk





D. LYNN SPRUILL
Mayor

THE CITY OF STARKVILLE
Mayor's Office
CITY HALL, 110 W. MAIN STREET
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI 39759

Phone: 662-323-2525 Ext.3100
Fax: 662-323-4143

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Michael Guest
United States House of Representatives
418 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: City of Starkville, Community Project Funding STAG Grant

Dear Congressman Guest,

I am writing in support of the City of Starkville's request for a CPF grant to address issues at our Ernest E. Jones Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The City has made a concerted effort to improve all of our infrastructure over the past decades and we have been working diligently on the Ernest E. Jones Wastewater Treatment Plant to address the elements of sustainability and future use of biosolids. The treatment plant itself is over forty (40) years old and is in need of what will effectively be a replacement of core parts and installation of new elements that have become part of current industry requirements.

We currently find ourselves with existing issues that have been verified by a comprehensive engineering report commissioned by the City of Starkville to determine the existing status and the path for growth for the services provided by our treatment plant.

The engineering report has revealed major issues that we must quickly address in order to avoid failures and non-compliance issues as well as managing the growth and development occurring in the region. As you know Mississippi has been experiencing a loss of population with the exception of a few areas in our state, of which Starkville is one. We must be able to support that growth within and without the city limits as we have been doing for the past number of years. These needs are only growing as the region is positively impacted by such developments as the Aluminum Dynamics plant and the expansion of existing businesses in the region.

In order for us to keep up, we must upgrade and expand our capabilities to serve the wastewater treatment customers inside the City of Starkville, Mississippi State University and Oktibbeha County.

We have been incredibly grateful for your support and assistance over the years and look forward to working with you and your staff in the future as we strive to serve the economic needs and growth

of our city, county and university. Your staff has been a pleasure and a huge help in guiding us in this effort.

If I may answer any questions about this or any other issues, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Spruill", with a small horizontal dash at the end.

D. Lynn Spruill, Mayor
City of Starkville, MS

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING
THROUGH THE EPA STAG INTERIOR SUBCOMMITTEE GRANT FOR THE
CITY OF STARKVILLE TO SUPPORT THE UPGRADE AND IMPROVEMENTS
TO THE ERNEST E. JONES WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IN THE CITY
OF STARKVILLE**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi (the "Board"), acting for and on behalf of both the residents and citizens of Oktibbeha County do hereby find and determine as follows:

1. Oktibbeha County is the home of its county seat, the City of Starkville and the home of Mississippi State University. The County has experienced unabated growth over the past four decades.
2. The wastewater treatment plant has served the citizens of Oktibbeha County and the City of Starkville since its original construction in 1979 and its expansion in 1988 and upgrade in 2001. It now also serves through an agreement Mississippi State University and its primary campus.
3. The Board of Supervisors recognizes that the City of Starkville has been aggressively working toward a structured plan that will provide the necessary replacements to the equipment which has exceeded its useful life. This plan allows for continued operation in the most efficient and effective and safest manner currently required by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
4. The focus of the Community Project Funding STAG grant is to improve and support basic infrastructure improvements under Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq. to underserved areas and to rural areas that are desirous of improving the quality of life and receiving basic services. This sewer project appropriately addresses those federal and state concerns by extending additional service opportunities to areas that currently cannot be served due to wastewater plant infrastructure age limitations while addressing the needed upgrades to maintain a high quality of service to current customers. Those are currently and will be customers residing in Oktibbeha County.
5. The Board of Supervisors acknowledges that the City has invested in a comprehensive engineering report to address the current status of the wastewater treatment plant facilities, processes and capacity in order to serve the community for existing customers as well as address long term growth.
6. That engineering report has revealed critical elements that must be addressed quickly to prevent failures, compliance issues or unsafe situations from escalating to reach unacceptable levels of possible permit violations impacting all parties served.

7. The use of the STAG grant will be a direct and immediate benefit to the current residents of Oktibbeha County; allow for compliance as well as future growth and expansion in the underserved areas. It will thus be a responsible use of the funds from taxpayers' dollars. The proposed improvements will affect directly those who pay into the system with a return on that investment through tangible, impactful and daily results of such an investment.

ADOPTED unanimously this 7th day of April, 2025, by the Oktibbeha County Board of Supervisors:

Following the reading of the foregoing resolution and discussion thereof, Supervisor TRAINER moved and Supervisor LITTLE seconded the motion to adopt the foregoing resolution, on the question being put to a roll call vote, the result was as follows:

Supervisor Ben Carver	voted: <u>Yay absent</u>
Supervisor Marvell Howard	voted: <u>Yay</u>
Supervisor Pattie Little	voted: <u>Yay</u>
Supervisor Orlando Trainer	voted: <u>Yay</u>
Supervisor Joe Williams	voted: <u>Yay</u>

The motion having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present, the President declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted, on this, the 7th day of April, 2025.




Chancery Clerk

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi



President, Board of Supervisors

Oktober County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisors
Marvell Howard
Joe Williams
Orlando Trainer
Patricia Little
Ben Carver

P.O. Box 80285
Starkville, MS 39759

Wayne Carpenter
County Administrator
wcarpenter@gtpdd.com
PHONE (662) 323-1520
FAX (662) 338-1065

April 7, 2025

The Honorable Michael Guest
United States House of Representatives
418 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

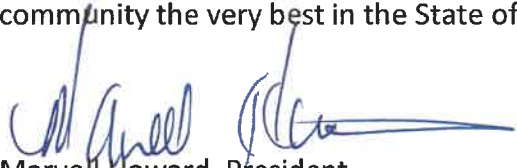
RE: City of Starkville, Community Project Funding STAG Grant

Dear Congressman Guest,

I am writing as President, with the support of the Board of Supervisors in support of the City of Starkville's request to receive funding from the fiscal year 2026 appropriations for the improvements and expansion of the Ernest E. Jones Wastewater Treatment Plant. This request is for improvements that are critical to current operations of the existing plant and its ability to take on the projected future growth of both Starkville proper and the outlying areas in Oktober County.

Oktober County and the City of Starkville work together to create growth and development for the entire region and this is without a doubt a basic and present need for our community to be able to meet the existing demands and the demands projected for our growth. As we are one of the only regions in the State of Mississippi that is experiencing this growth, it is vital for us to keep that level of growth and progress moving. Mississippi State University is greatly impacted as a recipient and partner with the City of Starkville for the services provided by this facility.

We have been most grateful for your support and assistance over the years and look forward to working with you and your staff in the future as we work with the City of Starkville to make our community the very best in the State of Mississippi.



Marvell Howard, President
Oktober County Board of Supervisors
Oktober County, Mississippi

We are an equal opportunity provider.



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY®

March 27, 2025

The Honorable Michael Guest
U.S. House of Representatives
418 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman:

I write to express strong support for the City of Starkville's request for a Community Project Funding (CPF) grant to fund critical upgrades to the Ernest E. Jones Wastewater Treatment Plant. This facility serves Mississippi State University as well as the City of Starkville and parts of Oktibbeha County. The more than 40-year-old treatment plant requires improvements to ensure its operational compliance and to support future growth.

Our city leaders have placed a high priority on addressing infrastructure needs to enhance economic development opportunities and improve the overall quality of life in our community. Maintaining a reliable and up-to-date wastewater treatment facility is essential to these efforts. This facility also provides a function that is vital to Mississippi State University. We value the partnership between MSU and the city regarding the management and operation of this facility and look forward to continuing this collaboration in anticipation of a bright future ahead.

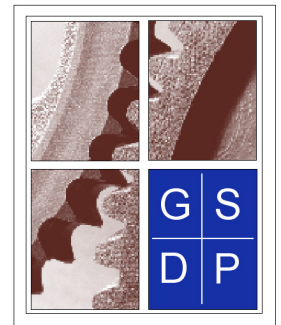
Securing funds through this grant will enable our university and the city to continue our focus on serving and supporting our local community for decades to come. We appreciate your leadership in service to our state and nation and to Mississippi State University as well. Thank you for all you do for us. I look forward to seeing you soon. Please call on me if I can ever be of service.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Keenum
President

Office of the President

4000 Lee Hall • P. O. Box 6018 • Mississippi State, MS 39762-6018 • Phone: 662-325-3221 • president@msstate.edu



OKTIBBEHA
COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

April 4, 2025

The Honorable Michael Guest
United States House of Representatives
418 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: City of Starkville CPF Grant Request

As President of the Oktibbeha County Economic Development Authority (OCEDA) I am writing in support of the request by the City of Starkville for a CPF Grant providing a funding for critical upgrades to the Ernest E. Jones Wastewater Treatment Plant that serves the City of Starkville, Mississippi State University and portions of Oktibbeha County.

OCEDA understands that the basic services provided by a well-functioning and compliant wastewater treatment plant are absolutely critical for the existing customers, but from an economic development standpoint it is so fundamental as to impair the growth and development which is the focus of our organization.

OCEDA strives to improve the lives of our citizens through job creation and investment within the Oktibbeha County and the City of Starkville. That growth requires that the infrastructure is ready to meet the demand of anticipated/projected growth and development. Currently that infrastructure is unable to make the commitment to future development.

This grant will allow those improvements to move forward rapidly so that the region which is in demand and is currently being asked to commit to services that it is unable to support without the improvements and critical elements for upgrades can realize its potential.

OCEDA recognizes and appreciates the efforts that you and your staff have taken to assist this region and hope the critical nature of the needs cataloged by the City of Starkville and outlined in a commissioned engineers report will provide the justification supporting this projects significance to economic development for the region.

Thank you for all you do for our community.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Spruill', with a stylized, cursive script.

D. Lynn Spruill
OCEDA Board President
Mayor, City of Starkville

A MEMBER OF THE
G R E A T E R
STARKVILLE
DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP

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