



**Community
Development
Partnership**

Commerce | Industrial Development | Main Street | Tourism

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Rep. Michael Guest
450 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

To Whom it May Concern,
The Community Development Partnership proudly offers its full support for Philadelphia Utilities as it seeks assistance to update and modernize the potable water treatment plant serving the citizens of Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Reliable access to clean and safe drinking water is one of the most critical services any community can provide. The current water treatment facility has served our community well for over 50 years, but as infrastructure ages and regulatory standards evolve, improvements are necessary to ensure the continued delivery of high-quality potable water. Upgrading this facility will help ensure system reliability, improve treatment efficiency, and strengthen the long-term sustainability of Philadelphia's water infrastructure.

Philadelphia is a growing and vibrant community that continues to attract new residents, businesses and visitors. A modern and dependable water system is essential not only for public health and safety but also for economic development and future growth. Investments in infrastructure such as the water treatment plant support job creation, encourage private investment and enhance the overall quality of life for our citizens.

The Community Development Partnership works closely with local organizations, businesses and public agencies to promote sustainable development and improve the wellbeing of our community. We recognize the importance of strong utility infrastructure in supporting these goals. For this reason, we strongly support Philadelphia Utilities in its efforts to secure funding and resources necessary to upgrade the city's potable water treatment facility.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of critical infrastructure projects in our community.

Sincerely,

Tim Moore, Executive Director



"It's a matter of caring..."

**Citizens
National Bank**

March 3, 2026

Rep. Michael Guest
450 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Guest,

I am a long time resident of Philadelphia and Neshoba County. I went to school here, go to Church here, work here, and have lived here for over 50 years. I have been a part of our community and have worked in the banking and financial industry for 30 years, and I am proud to be a part of this community. I also try and give back by being involved with community clubs and events such as The Sertoma Club, Rotary Club, Open Arms, and Make a wish to name a few.

I have become aware of our need for renovations to Philadelphia Utility's Water Plant. Philadelphia has grown and thrived over the years, and having adequate power and water is an important part of our success. Without adequate utilities, our residents, businesses, and entire community would suffer. I ask you to approve any funding that you can to help with the renovations needed for our water plant. I have known Kirk Morgan for a number of years and have dealt with Philadelphia Utilities for many years. I know these funds will be used appropriately and for the betterment of our City.

Sincerely,

Heath Stribling
Philadelphia Market President
Citizens National Bank
538 Main St
Post Office Box 790
Philadelphia, MS 39350
Telephone 601.484.5319/Fax 601.656.3038
Heath.Stribling@yourcnb.com

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Philadelphia Utilities

435 E. Myrtle Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350

(601) 656-1121

Congressman Michael Guest
450 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5031
Fax: (202) 225-5797

Dear Congressman Michael Guest,

The Philadelphia Utilities Water Treatment Plant was constructed in 1971. The clarifier and aerator are now in critical need of refurbishment. Due to the complexity of plant operations, there are currently no viable fixed or mobile treatment alternatives that would allow this work to be performed while maintaining normal plant operations.

In the 55 years since the facility was commissioned, neither the clarifier nor the aerator has undergone a comprehensive rebuilding process to address mechanical wear, operational degradation, or capacity expansion. Both units have exceeded their typical service life, and continued operation without significant rehabilitation presents increasing operational and reliability risks.

Given these factors, it is imperative that we begin a structured refurbishment project. To do so will require a new clarifier and aerator to be constructed to offset any potential lack of water treatment.

All the Best,

Chris Higginbotham
Water & Sewer Department Superintendent
(601) 656-8633
chigginbotham@philutil.net



**BOYS & GIRLS
CLUB**

P.O. Box 313
Philadelphia, MS 39350

March 4, 2026

Representative Michael Guest
450 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Guest:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Philadelphia and the Board of Commissioners of Philadelphia Utilities in their request for critical funding to upgrade our community's potable water treatment facility.

The existing water treatment plant, now more than 50 years old, is in urgent need of significant repairs and modernization based on a recent evaluation of the facility which identified the immediate need to renovate the aging facility. The project consists of installing a new aerator, new clarifier and related piping and chemical feed improvements. It also calls for maintenance and repairs of the existing clarifier, among other things. Without these essential improvements, the system's ability to consistently and adequately serve customers could be compromised.

These upgrades are vital to ensuring that the plant can provide sufficient treatment capacity for all current customers while safeguarding the health and welfare of our citizens. Furthermore, strengthening our water infrastructure is essential to supporting future growth, economic development, and the long-term safety and stability of our community.

Therefore, I am in full support of the Board of Commissioners of Philadelphia Utilities in seeking a Two Million Dollar (\$2,000,000) federal appropriation and a One Million Dollar (\$1,000,000) appropriation from the State of Mississippi to complete these necessary improvements.

As I am representing the Boys & Girls Club of our community in the writing of this letter, I am reminded of a club motto, "Great Futures Start Here." I respectfully urge you to help our community "start a great future" of adequate, dependable, clean water by assisting Philadelphia Utilities in securing these needed funds and to advocate on behalf of our community's infrastructure needs.

Thank you for your continued service to our district and for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Jo Helen Daly
Member of the Board of Directors
Boys & Girls Club of Neshoba County



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March 4, 2026

Representative Michael Guest
450 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Guest,

I am writing to express my strong support for the resolution to fund critical repairs and improvements to the City of Philadelphia's water treatment plant operated by Philadelphia Utilities. Ensuring the safety, reliability, and sustainability of our community's water infrastructure is essential to protecting public health and supporting continued economic development for our area of the state.

The water treatment plant plays a vital role in providing clean and safe drinking water to homes, schools, healthcare facilities, and businesses throughout our city. This aging infrastructure is over 50 years old and is no longer capable of keeping up with the increased demands of our ever-growing population. Investing in this upgrade now will help limit any unforeseen emergency repairs and service interruptions down the road and show our commitment to compliance with state and federal water quality standards.

I respectfully urge you to assist Philadelphia Utilities by helping them seek and gain approval for any proposed federal funding that may be available for the repairs and improvements to the water treatment plant. This investment represents a proactive and fiscally responsible step toward guaranteeing safe water services for current and future generations.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Eric Prince
President, Prince Oil Company, Inc.

City of Philadelphia
525 Main Street
Philadelphia, MS 39350
Phone 601-656-3612

Mayor
Jim Fulton
City Clerk
Nikki M. Walton
City Attorney
Robert L. Thomas

Alderman
Mark Cheatham
Darnell Horne
Shaun Seales
Bert Turcotte
James Waltman

March 3, 2026

Representative Michael Guest
405 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Representative Guest:

The City of Philadelphia, Mayor Jim Fulton, and Board of Aldermen fully supports the Manager and the Board of Commissioners of Philadelphia Utility's efforts in seeking assistance from the Mississippi Legislature and other state and federal sources to improve and preserve the water treatment facility for the health, safety, welfare, and economic growth of our community.

The need for improvements is to allow the over 50-year-old existing clarifier to be renovated and increase the capacity. These improvements will ensure capacity remains in place to safely and efficiently treat all water now and in the future as originally engineered to do.

In Support,



Jim Fulton, Mayor
City of Philadelphia