

Congressman Gianforte

*on his Legislation*

Natural Resource: Water, Oceans, and Wildlife 06/12/2019

Mr. Chairman, Ranking member,

Too many Montanans still lack reliable access to clean water in their communities. For over 13 years, the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority Water System (DRWA Water System) and the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System (MJRWS) have been working with the Bureau of Reclamation with little progress. In fact, the Musselshell- Judith system was the only entity in the nation to complete the permitting process mandated under the 2006 Rural Water Supply Act and Reclamation deemed the project fully feasible with a 75% federal cost share. Unfortunately, the program has sunsetted, so authorization is needed to move forward on this shovel ready project.

This is why I introduced H.R. 967, the Clean Water for Rural Communities Act, which will authorize the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System at 65% Federal cost share, bringing clean reliable water to over 4,500 Montanans. Furthermore, this legislation will authorize Reclamation to pick up where it left off and finalize the feasibility study for the Dry-Redwater system.

13 years is far too long. My constituents need access to clean, reliable drinking water. I implore members to support this legislation in the future. Thank you, I yield back.