

June 17, 2022

Daniel K. Atwill  
Presiding Commissioner  
Boone County Commission  
Columbia, MO by e-mail only

Janet M. Thompson  
District Commissioner  
Boone County Commission  
Columbia, MO by e-mail only

Justin Aldred  
District Commissioner  
Boone County Commission  
Columbia, MO by e-mail only

RE: Premium Pay for Essential Workers

Dear Commissioners,

The Boone County Regional Sewer District requests the allocation of funds from the Boone County American Rescue Plan's Recovery Funds to the District, to provide "premium pay" for the essential workers who have been dedicated to keeping our community safe during the pandemic.

The District understands that premium pay is authorized by the American Rescue Plan as a way to reward essential workers with up to "\$13 per hour in addition to wages or remuneration the worker otherwise receives and in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$25,000 per eligible worker." This rule is from the Department of the Treasury's Interim Rule, which is the federal guidance for State and Local Recovery Funds.

Sewage has been a known carrier of SARS-CoV-2 since early on in the pandemic. Health officials and scientists, including those at the University of Missouri have been testing sewage to detect and track variants. The guidance from the Department of the Treasury seems clear that nonprofit staff whose work has put them at risk of contracting COVID-19 are one of the intended recipients of premium pay.

Over the course of many months and prior to the wide availability of vaccinations, District employees who were classified as "essential" continued to work and come into contact with sewage in order to

maintain county facilities and systems, respond to emergency calls, interact with the public, and make sure the District's sanitary sewer system continued to function without interruption.

The Department of Treasury provides two ways for governments to disburse premium pay to eligible essential workers. Recovery Funds can either be appropriated to government agencies to administer or they can be granted to third party nonprofit agencies to provide premium pay to eligible staff or contractors. We recognize that just as the pandemic has put unprecedented burdens on our communities, it has also strained the resources and staff of our government. We are ready to work with the County Commission to create an accountable and efficient way to administer these payments to 7 District employees.

On behalf of the Boone County Regional Sewer District, we thank you all for the work you have done during the pandemic. We urge you to follow Congress's intent and provide nonprofit public essential workers with the premium pay they deserve for their essential work and the sacrifices they have made to keep our community safe and healthy.

Sincerely,  
BOONE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Lara Florea  
Finance and Administration

C: File  
Tom Ratermann, Boone County Regional Sewer District  
Dustin Stanton, Boone County Treasurer, by e-mail only  
June Pitchford, Boone County Auditor, by e-mail only  
CJ Dykhouse, Boone County Counselor, by e-mail only