

Message

From: Gage, Taylor [taylor.gage@nebraska.gov]
Sent: 6/20/2018 7:55:17 PM
To: Abboud, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6f5af791a1842f1adcc088cbf9ed3ce-Abboud, Mic]
Subject: RE: Omaha WIFIA quote

You may attribute the following to Governor Ricketts:

“Thank you to the Environmental Protection Agency and Administrator Pruitt for supporting our efforts in Nebraska to build high-quality water infrastructure. Modernizing and upgrading our infrastructure is key to delivering a great quality of life and helping grow the greater Omaha area and communities across our state.”

From: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:06 AM
To: Gage, Taylor <taylor.gage@nebraska.gov>
Subject: Omaha WIFIA quote

Taylor-

Attached is the draft press release regarding the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan of \$69.7 million that will be going to the Omaha tomorrow. We are hoping that Governor Ricketts would provide a quote for the release.

Below are talking points regarding the project that can help provide some fact for the quote. Also see the link to the original ask from EPA to Omaha to apply for the loan. As always feel free to call if you have any questions. We are hoping to have a quote by COB today. Thanks again!

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/city-omaha-invited-epa-apply-55-million-water-infrastructure-finance-and-innovation-act>

Talking Points for Head's Up Call Re: WIFIA Omaha Loan Closing

- I'm pleased to inform you that we are moving to close on a nearly \$70 million loan to the City of Omaha, Nebraska, today.
- We are working with the City of Omaha to announce this closing on Thursday, June 21st.
- This loan will finance the city's new Saddle Creek Retention Treatment Basin and this loan makes the second loan ever to be issued under EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program.
- We understand that when the Saddle Creek Retention Treatment Basin is completed in 2022, it can collect and treat up to 320 million gallons of wastewater and stormwater daily that would have spilled into the Little Papillion Creek during wet weather.
- This represents a nearly **90 percent** cut in local water pollution and a significant public health and environmental protection achievement.
- We are excited to support this local water infrastructure project that will also produce good jobs, and better protect the health of more than 600,000 Omahans.
- WIFIA financing will save the City approximately \$20 million through its customized and flexible lending terms as well as the low interest rate offered by the program.
- We also wanted to remind you that we have additional WIFIA funding available that could provide as much as \$5.5 billion in loans.

- Our latest WIFIA Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) highlights the importance of protecting public health including reducing exposure to lead and other contaminants in drinking water systems and updating the nation's aging infrastructure.
- Prospective borrowers seeking WIFIA financing in 2018 must submit a letter of interest (LOI) by July 31, 2018.
- We would love to fund additional Nebraskan projects so please keep WIFIA in mind.

Michael Abboud

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Public Affairs

M: **Personal Matters/Ex. 6**