



FIGHTING FOR ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE, STATES' WATER RIGHTS

Senator Thune has worked hard to secure access to safe, reliable drinking water, advance important flood control projects, and protect states' water rights.

Highlights of Sen. Thune's Commitment to Water Infrastructure

- **Fought to Authorize and Fund Numerous Water Projects That Benefit Communities Across South Dakota:**
 - Sen. Thune authored legislation to create the Lewis & Clark Regional Water Project in 2000, and since that time, he has worked diligently to advance this project, including by securing substantial funding through appropriations bills.
 - Sen. Thune worked to secure funding for water projects in Indian Country, including [Mni Waste](#), which serves the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe, and [Mni Wiconi](#), which serves the Oglala Sioux, Rosebud Sioux, and Lower Brule Sioux tribes.
- **Supports Federal Programs That Provide Tools to Communities to Ensure Access to Safe, Clean Drinking Water:**
 - Sen. Thune has supported legislation to provide funding for programs such as the Source Water Protection Program, Circuit Rider Technical Assistance Program, and the state revolving loan funds, all of which assist rural water systems across South Dakota.
- **Authored legislation to protect state water rights on the Missouri River by blocking efforts by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to charge for surplus water:**
 - During consideration of the 2014, 2018, 2020, and 2022 Water Resources Development Acts, Sen. Thune authored, and has since extended a provision, to restrict until 2030 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from moving forward with its highly controversial proposal to restrict access to Missouri River water and charge users for surplus water taken from its reservoirs in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana.
 - These provision, which protects states' rights and water users, was [signed](#) into law.