

## **Morgan Takala – Importance of the Water Industry**

The water industry is probably one of the most important industries to humankind. Why? Well, water is the most important compound on earth. Water is essential for both plants and animals and in turn our food supply. Humans cannot survive long without water. The water industry provides the world with safe, dependable water. We should not take good, clean, safe water for granted.

The water industry is so important in North Dakota for supplying communities with safe, clean water. Before our community received rural water, the city obtained water from a well. When levels of arsenic exceeded safe levels, our small community could not afford the infrastructure and treatment needed to make our water safe. The water industry, specifically Rural Water Systems, makes it possible for Upham and other small towns to have access to safe, clean drinking water. Upham now gets water from All Seasons Water Users District and the water industry makes this possible. If you don't know how far it is from Bottineau to Upham, North Dakota is, it is about thirty miles. That is a long way to haul water. But the water industry makes it possible by sending the water through pipes underground, right to our water tower in Upham!

It is crazy to think that many people cannot even drink from the faucet in their house because the water is not safe. While others around the world do not have access to good quality water. The water industry is responsible for treating water, transporting water, making sure that water is accessible, and fixing water leaks in different places. They attend to these problems year-round, whether it's forty below or it's an eighty-degree summer day. Listening to my mom talk about the water leaks or water line problems in the small town of Upham sounds incredibly

stressful. From trying to find where the leak is and how to fix a leak to fixing something small, individuals in the water industry are always busy.

These are just a few reasons why I believe the water industry is so important. Not only does it transport our water to our houses but ensures our water is safe and useable. Those involved in the water industry are an integral part of our communities and world. Without these employees, we would not have a water industry, or access to safe, clean drinking water. Try your best not to take the water you drink for granted. Take a second to think about how important the water industry is to you and your family.