

Reply from Senator Daines

Tuesday, December 17, 2019
1:41 PM

Subject	Reply from Senator Daines
From	Sen. Steve Daines
To	jacksranch@freedomforallseasons.org
Sent	Friday, December 13, 2019 9:33 AM

December 13, 2019

Mr. John Venrick
20561 Wild Horse Ranch Rd 10
Rollins, Montana 59931

Dear Mr. Venrick,

Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns regarding the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) Water Compact. I value your point of view and appreciate the opportunity to respond. As you may know, the current CSKT Water Compact is the most controversial, expensive and divisive of Montana's six Indian water rights settlement agreements.

That's why I worked for years to reach a new agreement that settles the CSKT water dispute and permanently protects the water rights of all Montanans. The Montana Water Rights Protection Act will permanently eliminate 97% of all of the Tribe's water claim rights across Montana, save taxpayers over \$400 million versus alternative proposals, and give all water users across Montana protection and certainty.

I worked to include portions of the People's Compact in this new legislation and ensured that it received a fair analysis from the Trump Administration. I'm pleased to note that last month, the Trump administration expressed support for a settlement that avoids litigation. The Montana Water Rights Protection Act does just that!

It safeguards Montanans' due process by giving them access to state courts over water disputes between tribal and non-tribal members, prevents years of costly litigation and prohibits the sale of water outside the State of Montana. It also affirms Montanans' Constitutional protection that the water of the State of Montana belongs to all the people for their common benefit.

I will continue working with all stakeholders and the Trump administration to get this new agreement signed into law.

Again, thanks for contacting me. It is my number one priority in the Senate to represent the values and interests of the people of Montana, and your input is very helpful as I do. I invite you to visit my website, www.daines.senate.gov, for updates about activities in Washington that affect our lives in Montana or to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Steve Daines
United States Senator
SD/

Please do not reply to this email, as this box is unattended. Instead, please use the contact form on my [website](#) if you have any further comments.



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