

JULY 27, 2004

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
SECRETARY, UNITED STATES SECTION
1250 23RD STREET NW, SUITE 100
WASHINGTON, DC 20440

DEAR IJC COMMISSIONERS;

I AM WRITING IN REGARD TO THE 1909 BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY AND SPECIFICALLY THE 1921 ORDER. I FEEL THAT THE ORDER IS UNFAIR AND THAT IT IS AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR THE IJC TO OPEN THE ORDER TO REVIEW. IT HAS BEEN 83 YEARS SINCE THE ORDER HAS BEEN REVIEWED, AND MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THE MILK - ST MARY SYSTEM SINCE THAT TIME. CURRENTLY, THE PEOPLE OF THE MILK RIVER SYSTEM ARE SEEKING FUNDING TO REHABILITATE THE ST MARY DIVERSION AND CANAL WORKS THAT BRING WATER INTO THE MILK RIVER SYSTEM. THIS IS AN ESTIMATED \$100 MILLION PROJECT AND IT WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY THAT THE RIVERS INVOLVED WOULD BE DIVIDED ACCORDING TO THE TREATY.

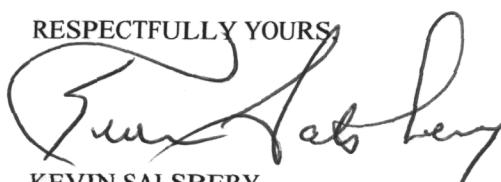
I SPENT NINE YEARS AS A COMMISSIONER FOR THE MALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT. EVEN IN THE BETTER YEARS WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO PROVIDE FULL SERVICE IRRIGATION TO OUR IRRIGATORS. WITH THE DROUGHT, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME VERY DIFFICULT IRRIGATION SEASONS AS WE WERE ONLY ABLE TO SUPPLY ONE IRRIGATION TO ONE-THIRD OF OUR DISTRICT ACRES ONE YEAR AND 40% OF OUR ACRES ANOTHER YEAR. THIS CREATES A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION AS OUR LANDOWNERS MUST CONTINUE TO PAY FULL COST O&M TO KEEP THE IRRIGATION DISTRICT VIABLE. HOPEFULLY, A FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF THE ST MARY - MILK WATERS WOULD HELP ALLEVIATE THIS PROBLEM.

FROM A PERSONAL STANDPOINT, I HAVE SPENT MY LIFE IN THE MALTA AREA. I AM PART OF A FAMILY RANCH OPERATION WITH TWO OF MY BROTHERS. WE RAISE CATTLE AND HAVE IRRIGATED HAY AND SMALL GRAINS. WITH THE IRRIGATION, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT THREE FAMILIES. REMOVAL OF THE IRRIGATION WOULD LEAVE US A ONE FAMILY OPERATION, AT BEST.

CONTINUED SHORTAGES OR LOSS OF IRRIGATION IN THE MILK RIVER BASIN WILL SEVERELY IMPACT OUR POPULATION, OUR ECONOMY, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENTIRE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE BASIN. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS MALTA HIGH SCHOOL. AFTER A DEVASTATING FIRE IN 1995, THIS BUILDING WAS BUILT. IT RELIES HEAVILY ON IRRIGATION TO PROVIDE THE TAX BASE TO PAY FOR IT. IRRIGATION PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILIES TO LIVE HERE AND FILL ITS CLASSROOMS.

IN CONCLUSION, I WOULD RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT THE IJC REVIEW THE 1921 ORDER, AND TREAT THE ST MARY AND MILK RIVERS AS ONE STREAM TO BE APPORTIONED EQUITABLY AND FAIRLY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,



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