



## Malta Area Chamber of Commerce

Box 1420 – Malta, Montana 59538

Phone 654-1776

July, 27, 2007 – Malta, Montana

**TO: International Joint Commission (IJC)**

**RE: Distribution of water from the St. Mary River and Milk River between Canada and US**

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As President of the Malta Area Chamber of Commerce, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you along with our thanks for making the opportunity to meet with you available within our community.

The Malta Chamber represents over 130 business and individual members and I can personally attest to the value of the Milk River Valley and the positive impact agriculture producers have on our local businesses.

*1909 Treaty*  
The fact that our irrigators do not receive their appropriate share of water as stated within the ~~1921 Order~~ has devastating effects on the production in the valley and subsequent profits of our member businesses. All across the HiLine of Montana, business struggle to keep their doors open – increased Ag production of 10-15% with our fair share of water within the Milk River Basin will help maintain our communities and provide new opportunities for value added enterprises.

On behalf of the Chamber and our membership, I urge you to take the necessary steps to insure equal distribution of water from the St. Mary and Milk Rivers.

Sincerely,

Deanna Arnold, President