

PhillCo ECONOMIC GROWTH COUNCIL

3-1-4-9(a)

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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

On behalf of PhillCo Economic Growth Council Board of Directors and myself, I urge your favorable consideration to review the 1921 Order governing water distribution between the United State and Canada from the Milk River and St. Mary River.

According to water use statistics, the United States is not receiving their full apportionment of water, especially in recent drought stricken years.

The Milk River is the Life Line of the HiLine. In Phillips County alone, economic impacts of the St. Mary Irrigation System exceed \$10,000,000 annually. Increased production in the Milk River Valley from additional water provided with fair apportionment would realize an additional \$1,000,000 annual impact to the Phillips County economy.

Clearly, the United States is being negatively impacted under the current practices. As members of the IJC, you have the responsibility to insure appropriate judication of water within the St. Mary and Milk Rivers.

Now is opportune time for the IJC to act in conjunction with rehabilitation of the St. Mary Diversion System. Again, we urge your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Anne M. Boothe
Executive Director

