



PREMIER OF ALBERTA

December 19, 2008

Brian A. Schweitzer
Governor
State of Montana
Office of the Governor
Montana State Capital Building
P.O. Box 20081
Helena MT 59620-0801
USA

Dear Governor ^{Brian} Schweitzer:

Under the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, Montana and Alberta have shared the water of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers for nearly one hundred years. Montana and Alberta agree that the shared water is an important resource to both jurisdictions and believe there are opportunities to work together to achieve improved access to this shared water.

A joint working group of local water users and government agencies from both sides of the border prepared terms of reference for a joint initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to explore and evaluate options for improving both Alberta's and Montana's access to the shared water of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers and to make joint recommendations on preferred options to both governments for our consideration and approval.

I approve the terms of reference for the Montana-Alberta St. Mary and Milk River Water Management Initiative, and commit Alberta to work with Montana to improve access to the water we have shared for so long.

I look forward to receiving the recommendations from the joint working group on this important initiative.

Sincerely yours,

Ed Stelmach

ES/hp

cc: Honourable Rob Renner
Minister of Environment
Government of Alberta

*Brian,
All the best!
Take care!
hp*