

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

June 14, 2023

The Honorable Steve Daines
U.S. Senator
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester
U.S. Senator
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senators Daines and Tester:

I write today to offer my support for the Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC) Water Rights Settlement Act as presently drafted. As you both know, work to federally ratify the FBIC's water compact has been in process for decades. The State of Montana firmly supports bringing finality to this matter for the benefit of the FBIC as well as Montana water users.

The product before you is the result of extensive coordination between the federal government, the FBIC, and the State of Montana, with valuable input from local leaders, farmers, ranchers, and other water users. I urge for the passage of this version of the bill, without further modification.

It is essential that the State of Montana continues to have a seat at the table as this bill moves through the legislative process. I ask that you advocate to the Chairman and Vice Chairman for a witness to appear on behalf of the State of Montana once a hearing is scheduled before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

Thank you for your partnership to bring certainty to water users in northcentral Montana.

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Governor