

RESERVED WATER RIGHTS
COMPACT COMMISSION



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STATE OF MONTANA

December 22, 1987

Alan Mikkelsen
Secretary
Joint Board of Control
Route 1
Box 56
St. Ignatius, MT 59865

Dear Mr. Mikkelsen:

As Chairman of the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission's negotiating team for the negotiations with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, I would like to extend an invitation to you and your board to meet with the negotiating team in the near future to discuss matters of mutual concern. It is apparent to me that a lack of communication between the Commission and the Joint Board has led to a good deal of unnecessary friction between the two organizations. The Commission wishes to open and maintain the lines of communication with the Joint Board so that as our negotiations resume and progress we will be fully advised of the irrigators' concerns and positions on the issues.

I remain personally convinced that a compact with the Flathead Tribes is not feasible if it fails to make a satisfactory allowance for the irrigators' interests. Please let me know if the Joint Board wishes to open a dialogue with us to assure that we understand what those interests are. We would prefer to meet here in Helena, but would be willing to meet up in the Flathead if that is your preference. A date in January would allow us to report back to the Commission at its next meeting. I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris D. Tweeten".

Chris D. Tweeten
Vice-Chairman

c: Leo Berry
Jack Galt

Marcia Beebe Rundle
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