

# *Blaine County Conservation District*

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April 28, 2023

President Jeff Stiffarm  
Fort Belknap Agency  
656 Agency Main Street  
Harlem, MT 59526

RE: Fort Belknap Community Water Rights Settlement Act 2023

Dear President Stiffarm:

By unanimous vote, the Blaine County Conservation District Board of Supervisors wish to go on record in support of your language of the “Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 2023”. Congressional passage of this Act, containing Federal ratification of the 2001 Water Compact between the State of Montana and the Fort Belknap Indian Community, will help assure the physical and legal availability of water for agricultural, residential, and business users throughout the Milk River watershed.

That assurance will better enable our District to work with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the U.S. Natural Resources and Conservation Service on projects that enhance water conservation, quality, and infrastructure, both on and off the reservation. We urge the Montana Congressional Delegation to speed passage of this bill through the current session of Congress so that the important work of implementing this act can begin soon.

Sincerely,



Bruce Anderson  
Board Chair, Blaine County Conservation District

Cc: Senator Jon Tester  
311 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Senator Steve Daines  
320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Congressman Matt Rosendale  
1025 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Congressman Ryan Zinke  
512 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Governor Greg Gianforte  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620-0801



**Montana CD's: *Local Common Sense Conservation***