

BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Miles G. Hutton, Chair
Shane Fox
Dolores Plumage

P.O. Box 278
(406)357-3250

Chinook, Montana
59523-0278

June 28, 2023

Fort Belknap Tribal Council
158 Tribal Way
Harlem, MT 59526

RE: Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community
Water Rights Settlement Act of 2023 (Settlement Act)

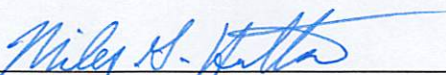
President Stiffarm and Council Members,

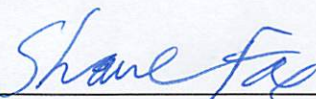
First, we would like to thank you for meeting with the Commissioners numerous times over the past years to discuss the Fort Belknap Water Settlement. We appreciate all the work you have put into completing the project. Next, thank you for removing the private leases from S.1987. Also, clarification that the State Lands exchange will come from Federal Lands throughout Montana eases our concern about the financial impact on Blaine County related to PILT payments. Lastly, the addition of funds to help with the St. Mary Rehabilitation Project is invaluable to the hi-line communities and counties.

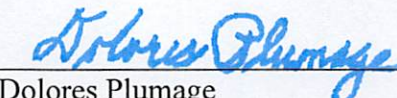
Your continued work to preserve the source of a water supply to communities, and the irrigation and recreational rights of county residents along the Milk River is appreciated, and we offer our support on S.1987 – The Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act.

Sincerely,

Blaine County Commissioners

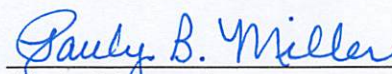

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ATTEST:




Clerk & Recorder