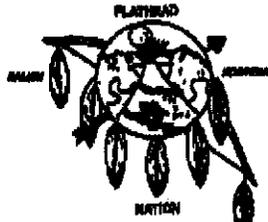


THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

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EXHIBIT 5
DATE 1.21.05
HB 236



Joseph E. Dupuis - Executive Secretary
Vern L. Clairmont - Executive Treasurer
Leon Bourdon - Sergeant-at-Arms

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:
D. Fred Matt - Chairman
Jani Hamel - Vice Chair
Carole Lankford - Secretary
Joel Clairmont - Treasurer
Lloyd D. Irvine
Mike Kennille
Mary Lefthand
Elmer "Bonny" Morigeau
James Steele, Jr.
Ron Trahan

January 20, 2005

Representative Jim Peterson
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee
Montana House of Representatives
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Peterson:

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (Tribes) wish to express support for the inclusion of the proposed amendment to Section 85-2-350 (2) contained in HB 236, introduced by Representative Verdell Jackson. This proposed amendment to Section 85-2-350 provides that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal government must have the right to appoint a representative to the Clark Fork River Basin Task Force.

This proposed amendment to Section 85-2-350 (2) would provide the Tribes the option to continue its representation on the Clark Fork River Basin Task Force in a manner consistent with the Tribes participation in the negotiation of the Tribes' Indian reserved water rights with the State of Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission and the United States.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on HB 236.

Sincerely,

D. Fred Matt
D. Fred Matt, Chairman
Tribal Council