

Open Letter to Dan Salomon

Editor:

Representative Dan Salomon (R-HD12) has betrayed his constituents in his district. We write to call attention to his actions which are unbecoming of his station as a representative, unwelcome, and non-responsive.

Our concerns stem from Mr. Salomon's role as a member of the MT Reserved Rights Compact Commission. Despite sitting on the Compact Commission for two years, Mr. Salomon has never held a public forum for his constituents to explain his support for the Compact, has been unable to answer questions about the details of Compact or even how much water is involved. He has simply dismissed constituent's concerns as unworthy of his attention. We wonder publically if Mr. Salomon even knows what is in the Compact.

Mr. Salomon tells us the Compact 'is a good deal' but can't say why. He tells his constituents that the Compact is 'a done deal' but has not bothered to listen to any discussion that raises legitimate questions or that even requests more time for citizen consideration of a 'deal' that affects 11 counties in Northwestern Montana and more than 350,000 people.

A recent Court decision on the proposed "FIP Water Use Agreement"—a key element of the proposed CSKT Compact—ruled the agreement an unconstitutional taking of irrigators' water rights. Thus, Representative Salomon has presided over the taking of property rights in western Montana. Despite this clear ruling by the Court, Mr. Salomon is likely to vote on February 26<sup>th</sup> in favor of sending the incomplete CSKT Compact forward for consideration to the MT. Legislature.

We voted for Dan Salomon in the last election because he said he would represent all citizens within his district. Now we can see he represents only a few citizens and himself. His support of this compact will serve to throw everyone else under the bus.

With representation like this, who needs enemies?

Concerned Citizens of Western Montana