

Dear Chairman & Committee members this is my statement against the compact. My name is Joy Claar. I live south of Ronan within the exterior boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation on fee simple land that I own.

My ancestors came to the reservation when it was opened to homesteading. They farmed here even opening a store to sell the vegetables grown on their lands. My parents grew up here. I have been acquainted with the reservation all my life as my grandmother, who was a homesteader, lived here most of her life. I have deep roots here and am very concerned over the water rights issues opened by this incomplete, illegal and poorly thought out compact.

No economic impact study was done to determine the economic impact on western Montana economy and farmers and ranchers. These are normally done, especially when there is a governmental (Federal, Tribal and State) restructuring of Montana citizen State's rights and taking of such primary needs as water. The State has failed to show the adverse effects of their 'Grand Bargain' on the citizens of Montana. How far will this 'Grand Bargain's' affect the State rights of every Montanan? Will this set a precedence of taking other State rights from Montana citizens? Just how far reaching is this move in the end? We do not know how it affects us with the water rights let alone the precedence it may set for giving away other rights of the citizens of Montana?

If these water rights are given away to Tribal government and Federal trust, which Judge McNeil has ruled to be a taking without compensation, the basin of the Flathead from Northwestern Montana to the Bitterroot will be closed even as Mr. Tweeten has stated himself (Tweeten rebuttal letter, Sept 2012). After closure no economic growth would be able to happen. No new water wells or usage would be possible. This will affect 11 counties and 350,000 people.

Irrigators will have the water rights they paid for with their land taken away from the land they purchased and a smaller amount of water given back. This is theft. Theft of State rights and water. The State would be open to vast litigation from its State citizens.

The family farms would be cut back extensively in their production or put out of business for lack of water to grow crops and water herds. The effected population would have to migrate out of the area or the State. This would be

economically devastating for the State. It would mean a population loss for all the cities in Western Montana. Land values would fall.

Who would make up for the lost crops and meat production? Prices for these food items will go up further affecting the economy of this area.

These are only some of the affects that are obvious. In this time of economic depression, the last thing that is needed is more economic stress.