

THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES  
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

P.O. BOX 278  
Pablo, Montana 59855  
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A Confederation of the Salish,  
Pend d' Oreilles  
and Kootenai Tribes

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joe Durglo - Chairman  
Carole Lankford - Vice Chair  
Reuben A. Mathias - Secretary  
Ron Trahan - Treasurer  
Leonard W. Gray  
Lloyd D. Irvine  
Steve Lozar  
Jim Malatare  
James Bing Matt  
Terry Pitts

**Senate Bill 265, a Bill to Extend the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission**

**Testimony by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Opposition to SB 265  
Senate Natural Resources Committee**

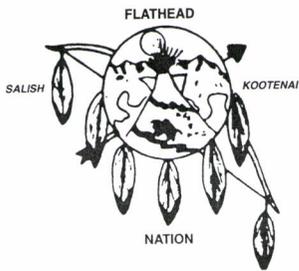
**February 15, 2013**

Good Afternoon. My name is Steve Lozar and I am testifying today on behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes **OPPOSING** the passage of this bill extending the sunset date for the Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission. The Tribes are pleased to announce that we successfully negotiated a compact that is ready to move through the legislature and understand two additional compacts are already moving through as well. There is no need or justifiable reason to further extend the Compact Commission.

The Compact Commission was established in 1979 and the Montana legislature extended its life six times. The Tribes actively supported those extensions in the 2001, 2003 and 2009 legislative sessions, because we had not yet enjoyed adequate time in which to negotiate a compact. The State of Montana and the Bureau of Indian Affairs considered the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes the last priority for negotiating a water rights compact, consequently we were not able to enter into serious negotiations until 2005. Since that time we have diligently and honorably pursued an agreement. We recently reached an acceptable agreement, though not perfect agreement, so there is no need to expend further time or expense negotiating.

Our Tribal Council spent many hours weighing carefully all the concessions made in the present agreement and feels there is no room for further compromise. We wish to proceed as quickly as possible to consideration of the compact by the 2013 Montana legislature.

Again, we **OPPOSE SB265**.



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A People of Vision

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