

Exhibit No. 22Date: 2/16/15Statement in opposition to SB262 before the Senate Judiciary SB262
Committee on February 16, 2015

My name is Jeanette Zentgraf. My husband of 60 years and I live in Lolo and though we are not farmers or ranchers, we want Montana ranchers and farmers to continue to be a benefit to Montana's economy.

Our friends who are ranchers and farmers have had their water rights protected by the Montana Constitution, Water Authority Statutes and the MEPA (Montana Environmental Policy Act). The Water Compact is a threat to that protection. Under the Authority of the Water Compact, a board consisting of two people representing the federal government, two people representing the Indian Nation and two people representing the State of Montana will make decisions about water rights that the MT State Water Authority should continue to do with justness and with respect for the U.S. Supreme Court Decision of 1981.

Neither the federal government nor the Indian Nation owe allegiance to Montana citizens, but our MT Constitution does. Article II, sec. 3 should be supported by this Committee.

No Indian Treaty has been violated and not even the CSKT Tribal Constitution of Oct 28, 1935 authorizes governance over non-tribal persons or properties.

We believe that the Water Compact demands too much of you. The Compact demands that you give your consent to a Compact that can never be altered or amended and will stand as you see it before you for Time Immemorial. Without your consent it will die here and it should.

We attended 2 Water Compact public meetings in Missoula and voiced our objections, as did the majority who were in attendance. Our suggestions were ignored, as they did not appear in the supposed altered Compact. The New Development of the Tribal Water Right, the Lease of the Tribal Water Right and the sale of water to out-of-state buyers do not adhere to needed protections of water rights for our farmers and ranchers. If we continue to support our current Water Statutes, you legislators will have the final word before our water is sold to out-of-staters, after studying a report by our State Water Department. Unlike the Indian Nation and the federal government, we thank God, that your loyalty is to Montana citizens and the State of Montana.

Respectfully submitted,
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