



THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA

June 26, 2006

Ross Herrington
Senior Water Policy Advisor
Environment Canada
Transboundary Waters Unit

Regina, Saskatchewan,

Dear Mr. Herrington,

On behalf of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and our 170,000 members from coast to coast to coast, we would like to express our support for the Boundary Waters Treaty and the International Joint Commission (IJC) as a means for reaching mutually beneficial decisions based on consensus.

The International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Administrative Measures Task Force was established by the IJC to examine whether the existing administrative procedures for the apportionment of water from the St. Mary and Milk rivers among Saskatchewan, Alberta and Montana can be improved to provide more beneficial use and optimal receipt by each country of its apportioned waters within the terms of the IJC's 1921 Order. The Montana government is seeking changes to the Treaty that dates back to 1909, more specifically to the 1921 Order.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce believes that the 1921 Order provides a framework for both Montana and Alberta to efficiently maximize the quantity of water that is available to them through the treaty and supports the Canadian government's position that the 1921 Order should not be re-opened. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce also applauds the province of Alberta for its investments in its irrigation systems that are of high quality and encourages other jurisdictions to follow Alberta's lead.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for considering the input and the interests of the Canadian business community. If it would be helpful, we would be pleased to discuss these issues with you in further detail at a time of your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley-Ann George
Vice President, International

c.c. Taber and District Chamber of Commerce
Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce

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