



**United States Department of State**

*Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20520-6258*

April 12, 2005

The Hon. Dennis L. Shornack  
Chair, International Joint Commission  
1250 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20440

Dear Mr. Schornack:

The Department of State has been following with interest the Commission's work on the St. Mary and Milk rivers regarding the request of then Governor Martz that Montana to review the 1921 IJC Order that sets out the procedures for implementing Article VI of the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty. The goal of the review would be to determine whether the water is being apportioned as originally intended.

The United States supports the review of the 1921 Order. However, we understand there is reluctance on the part of Canada to do so. As a reasonable next step, we also support the work of the IJC's St. Mary and Milk Rivers Administrative Measures Task Force which has been charged with the tasks of "examining and reporting to the IJC on measures for improvements to existing administrative procedures of the St. Mary and Milk rivers apportionment to ensure more beneficial use and optimal receipt by each country of its apportioned waters." Please see attached letter from the United States Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation which also supports that approach.

I hope this letter proves useful to you.

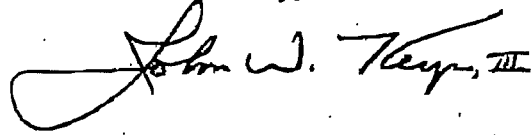
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T.A.B.", written over a horizontal line.

Terry A. Breese  
Director, Office of Canadian Affairs

If you have further questions or desire additional information on this matter, please contact Great Plains Acting Regional Director, Jaralyn Beek at (406) 247-7603.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Keys, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

John W. Keys, III  
Commissioner