

Dear Mr. Chairman, Members of the International Joint Commission;

I am here tonight to speak to you in regard to bringing forward the position of the 49 municipal or local governments. I am representing 31 municipalities from the South Western Mayors & Reeves Group and 18 from the South East Mayors & Reeves Committee. We are in support of maintaining the existing Order and that a review is not required.

Our municipal governments based upon the certainty provided by the 1921 Order have made significant investments in our communities. Our municipalities are located in an area often referred to as the Palliser Triangle, an area described as not conducive to development, yet through huge Federal, Provincial and much to a lesser degree, our own municipal governments financial contributions, we have developed a very stable economy.

Water is a very finite resource to our communities within the Palliser Triangle. We have built our communities based on water availability. We have attracted industries, some with low water use but many who use a considerable amount. Planning and development

activities within our communities has been carried out under conditions of water stability provided by the 1921 Order. Our long term planning and development are based on receiving the amounts of water licensed to our communities. Water licenses are granted on the premise of first in time, first in right.

Southern Alberta communities are committed to the wise and productive use of water. We have rehabilitated our storage and distribution systems to avoid the waste of water. In addition we have installed water meters for all residential, commercial and industrial users. Our communities recognizing the value of water promote, water conservation not only through metering, but encourage the installation of low flush toilets, water saving shower heads, the landscaping of gardens and yards with dry beds and rock gardens. We are also conserving our wetland within our communities and developing our parks around them.

Our regional population, its industries, its agriculture and our towns and cities are based on and tied directly to irrigation. Our municipalities have been working hard to make recommendations to our

government to have a water strategy that emphasizes conservation across all sectors. We believe with a greater investment in infrastructure both Alberta and Montana would be able to more effectively use the water that is apportioned but not currently captured. The failure by either country, state or province is not sufficient reason for a review of the 1921 Order.

The Boundary Water Treaty and the 1921 Order of the International Joint Commission are the framework under which our development has taken place. Mr. Chairman, a review of the Order would introduce uncertainties relating to entitlements. In our opinion, a review would be counter-productive to the long-term planning and development necessary to make beneficial use of the water in the two rivers in question.

Thank you