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Monte Solberg
Medicine Hat

The Right Honourable Herb Gray, P.C., Q.C.,
The Honourable Dennis L. Shornack
International Joint Commission
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 6K6

25 August 2004

Re St. Mary's and Milk Rivers

Dear Messrs. Gray and Shornack:

I am writing to strongly object to changing the present 1921 Order apportioning the flow of the St. Mary's and Milk Rivers between Canada and the US.

Cutting the Canadian apportionment of the flow would have a devastating impact on Farmers and Ranchers in the St. Mary's Irrigation District (SMRID) in particular and in Southern Alberta in general. As you may know the water in the SMRID is already fully allocated and any reduction would threaten certain sectors of the agriculture industry and cause great hardship for individual agricultural producers. For instance the Sugar Beet factory in Taber processes all the sugar beets in Alberta and draws its water from the SMRID.

The Government of Alberta makes an excellent case for maintaining the 1921 Order. I hope you will give their position every consideration.

Sincerely,

Monte Solberg,
Member of Parliament
Medicine Hat

c.c. The Honourable Andy Mitchell, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Stephane Dion, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Pierre Pettigrew, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Anne McLellan, P.C., M.P.

