



**MINERAL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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**RECEIVED**

July 19, 2022

JUL 28 2022

Ravalli County Commissioners  

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Montana State Land Board  
Governor Greg Gianforte  
Attorney General Austin Knudsen  
Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, Troy Downing  
Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen  
Sup. Of Public Instruction, Elsie Arntzen  
Land Board Secretary, Angela Christensen  
PO Box 201601  
Helena, MT 59620-1601

RE: Montana Water Rights Act and Land Exchanges

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

We recently received information regarding the exchange of Montana State Trust Lands with the CSKT Reservation for other off-reservation federal lands pursuant to the Montana Water Rights Protection Act.

Though we have interest in the recreational, silvicultural, and agricultural values of State Trust Lands on the reservation, our biggest concern is the off-reservation federal lands traded to the State of Montana.

Only 7% of Mineral County is private land. A significant portion of our county and school budget comes from PILT monies provided by the USA. Federal lands in the county are the basis for those payments. Federal lands traded in this exchange will no longer count in that basis and will lessen PILT funds received by our county and schools each year.

The loss of funds will short our local government revenues resulting in our providing less services, eliminating some services and/or raising local taxes upon our county citizens.

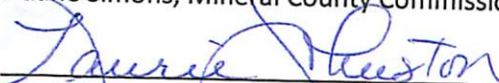
We request and need notice of any meetings scheduled regarding these exchanges and also desire an opportunity to participate in a meaningful manner.

It is our goal to lessen negative impacts upon recreational, agricultural and silvicultural opportunities in Western Montana while also limiting or eliminating negative impacts on local governments and schools.

Sincerely,

  
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Duane Simons, Mineral County Commissioner

  
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Laurie Johnston, Mineral County Commissioner

  
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Roman Zylawy, Mineral County Commissioner

CC: Saint Regis School District  
Alberton School District  
Superior School District  
Western Counties