

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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June 17, 2015

Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Mike Lee, Chair
Senate Subcommittee on Water and Power
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 1552 – The **Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority System** and the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System Authorization Act of 2015

Dear Senator Murkowski and Senator Lee:

Montana Senator Steve Daines, working with the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority (DRWA), has introduced legislation in the U.S. Congress for the authorization of the Dry-Redwater Regional Water System. Development of this rural water project will bring a dependable supply of safe drinking water to more than 15,000 people in eastern Montana and western North Dakota, between the Missouri River and the Yellowstone River.

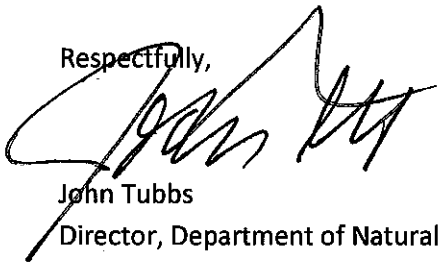
The State of Montana has supported the planning and administration of this regional water project with appropriations of over \$770,000 to date. For the upcoming biennium beginning July 1, 2016, the 2015 Montana Legislature appropriated funding of over \$4 million for the state's portion of the non-federal cost share on regional water system construction projects. The DRWA is eligible to apply for a portion of those funds. The natural resource tax-based fund which provides the basis for State of Montana participation in federally authorized regional water projects was renewed through 2031 by the legislature in its most recent session.

Drinking water resources in the proposed regional service area are both of insufficient quantity and poor quality. Providing safe and adequate supplies of drinking water to this region of Montana will protect human health and stimulate further economic activity in the area. The proposed Dry-Redwater regional water system is critical to the future of eastern Montana.

Your committee's support of this legislation is critical for the success of this project and the long-term viability of the economy of eastern Montana. The State of Montana would appreciate the support of your committee for S. 1552, to authorize regional water supply system which will be vital to the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer support of S. 1552.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Tubbs", written over the typed name and title.

John Tubbs

Director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

cc Governor Steve Bullock
The Honorable Steve Daines
The Honorable Jon Tester
The Honorable Ryan Zinke
DRWA Chairman Jerry Meissner
Meghan Marino
Jennifer Johnson
Mandi Nay
