



Crow Tribe Water Settlement Amendments Act

Senator Daines and Senator Sheehy

The **Crow Tribe Water Settlement Amendments Act** of 2025 makes minor adjustments to the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2009 to ensure the Crow Tribe can successfully implement its water rights settlement. The legislation will ensure that the Tribe has necessary flexibility and time to deliver clean water to communities on the reservation and complete critical energy development projects. It does this without opening the settlement between the state, the tribe, and water users and does not alter any existing water rights.

The Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2009, enacted in 2010, settled the Crow Tribe's water rights and authorized \$460 million to design and construct a Municipal, Rural and Industrial (MR&I) water system for the tribe and to rehabilitate and improve the Crow Irrigation Project. Additionally, the legislation provided funding for the Tribe to develop hydropower at the Yellowtail Afterbay Dam.

The Crow Tribe Water Settlement Amendments Act will:

- **Provide Flexibility to Complete Water Projects:** The original bill contains specific restrictions for the water infrastructure, which over time proved to be expensive and difficult to implement. This legislation provides the Tribe more flexibility in developing water infrastructure, allowing the Tribe to use the most up-to-date technology to create water systems that work for the region, without altering existing water rights.
- **Ensure Energy Development:** The amendment extends the authorization for the Tribe to develop hydropower on the Yellowtail Afterbay Dam until 2030, providing clean energy and an economic boost to the community.
- **Reduce Costs:** These changes will make it easier and more efficient for the Tribe to complete their water projects without adding any funding to the original settlement.

Have No Change in Existing Water Rights: This legislation does not alter or change any existing water rights.