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December 18, 2003

Director  
Department of Water Resources  
Boise, Idaho

Department of Water Resources

Re: Water District No. 120 Proposed Expansion

Dear Sir:

Deeded landowners on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation are at a disadvantage to tribal farm land under the proposed expansion. Much tribal farm ground with groundwater irrigation wells are leased to outside farming interests. If the deeded land owner must curtail water usage, the adjoining tribal farm land can utilize unrestricted water usage. Farmers with restricted water usage must plant crops of less water usage and value while the unrestricted farm profits from the crops such as potatoes and sugar beets.

I purchased my farm on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation (Sec 17; T. 6; R. 33) in 1960. The well on this property was put into service in 1956 and has been in continuous operation since that time.

There are no restrictions on my property deed, therefore it should be assumed that the status of underground water should be the same on both Tribal ground and non-Indian deeded land.

Presentation as to the extent underground pumping in the proposed expansion of Water District No. 120 has on other areas was not made clear. Water levels of irrigation wells in the area ( Simplot--FMC--Pocatello Airport--and others should be monitored before any decisions made that would affect irrigation in the area.

Property values...sale of property...would be affected.

Due to the complex nature of different entities under the confines of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, any expansion of the Water District onto the Reservation should be avoided.

Sincerely,



Lamond J. Bailey  
7070 Running Iron Ln.  
Pocatello, Idaho 83204-3817