

WD 29-D file 2017

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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

September 18, 2017

The Honorable Mike Crapo
251 East Front St., Suite 205
Boise, Idaho 83702

C Gary Spackman, Director
Idaho Department of Water Resources

C Tim Luke
Water Compliance Bureau

Dear Senator Crapo:

Let me begin by writing that I am not part of the Trump mentality characterized by bullying, deceit, flattery, hollow promises to people to gain support, and belittling and verbally attacking opponents in an effort to advance himself. Rather, I support a platform of honesty, integrity, fairness, equitable justice, and kindness and goodwill to all mankind. Thus expressed, I would like to further express concerns about water rights in Idaho.

Recently, Water District 29D with an elected board and water master was formed in the Lower Portneuf River and Tributaries area. What has transpired is the result of our water master being bullied into declaring that water users in this district terminate their use of water which essentially voids their water rights. The current policy of "Senior, Junior" water rights is archaic. We are not barbarians. Policy that favors one group or individual over another is not equal justice. This is America and we have legislative procedures that can bring about change and fairness. If our current legislative body is unwilling to address this issue, they need to be replaced by legislators who will.

Depriving water users in the Portneuf River Watershed, drying up that valley, increasing fire danger and risk of damage to personal and community property is not right! A fair portion of the water needs to be available all irrigating season! Our family members and neighboring families have been keeping this valley green with resourceful use of water from the Portneuf River for over a century. All water users need to share in the responsibility to distribute the water equally rather than depriving one group or another from their water rights completely. **Need** has a higher priority than **greed**!

Criteria needs to be established requiring that all users are using the available water in the most efficient manner possible and demonstrate that they are doing so or at least working towards that end. Sprinkling is more efficient than flood irrigating, watering at night and while raining more efficient than during hot and windy day times, etc. just to cite a couple of examples.

Thanks for considering opening the dialogue in an effort to change water use policy based upon "best practice", fairness, honesty, and goodwill to all mankind rather than the "Junior-Senior" mentality.

Respectfully,

A. Gordon Armstrong
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