



1475 1st Avenue - Havre MT, 59501 Phone: 406-945-3383
Email: jenn@mrjbc.com

St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group

PO Box 170 Havre, Montana 59501
phone (406) 265-9226 fax (406) 265-560

March 03, 2020

The Honorable Greg Gianforte
1222 Longfellow House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gianforte,

On behalf of the St. Mary's Rehabilitation Working Group (SMRWG) and the Milk River Joint Board, we would like to thank you for testifying at the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment hearing on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020.

We are grateful you testified and shared with Congress the importance of the Milk River Project. It is vital for the committee members to be aware that the project's St. Mary Diversion Dam has surpassed its expected design life and must be replaced with a new structure that integrates fish screens to ensure that bull trout, an endangered species, will not be entrained. As you know, the estimated replacement cost of the diversion dam is around \$47 million, of which irrigators will have to provide a 73.96% cost share.

The SMRWG and the Milk River Joint Board greatly appreciates your ongoing support and engagement to ensure this issue is addressed and brought to the attention of the committee as they develop the WRDA 2020 bill. We ask that you continue to press a Bureau of Reclamation Title be included in WRDA 2020.

Again, we appreciate all the work you have done to advance the St. Mary rehabilitation initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marko Manoukian".

Marko Manoukian, Co-Chair
St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wade I. Jones".

Wade I. Jones, President
Milk River Irrigation Project Joint Board of Control