



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Montana Supreme Court Upholds CSKT Water Compact

(Helena, Mont.)—The Montana Supreme Court has issued a decision upholding the constitutionality of the CSKT Water Compact in the *Flathead Joint Board of Control v. State of Montana* case.

Early in 2016 the Flathead Joint Board of Control contended that a small part of the Compact was unconstitutional and that this portion of the agreement required the Compact to be passed by a two-thirds majority in the Montana State Legislature.

Yesterday's [decision](#), delivered by Chief Justice Mike McGrath, confirms the constitutionality of both the Compact and the legislative procedures under which it was approved by the Montana State Legislature.

In reaction to the ruling, Farmers and Ranchers for Montana ("FARM") spokeswoman, Shelby DeMars released the following statement:

"The decision of the Montana Supreme Court to uphold the constitutionality of the Compact speaks to the thorough and thoughtful construction of this critical agreement," said DeMars. "After more than a decade of negotiations, the resulting settlement will protect existing water rights, prevent decades of costly litigation, and invest in critical infrastructure in our state. Today's decision respects the intent of the legislature and ensures that Montanans, both on and off the reservation, can benefit from the provisions of the Compact."

The Compact is currently awaiting ratification by Congress and the Tribes prior to implementation.

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