

March 21, 2019

Via Email: mgibbs@house.idaho.gov & hres@house.idaho.gov

Representative Marc Gibbs
Chairman, House Resources & Conservation Committee
PO Box 83702
Boise, Idaho 83702-0038

Re: SJM 106

Chairman Gibbs:

I understand that concerns were raised in the House Resources Committee by one of your members this week during testimony over SJM 106 about whether one of our board members, Albert Barker, had a conflict of interest presenting testimony in favor of SJM 106 on behalf of his clients because SJM 106, arguably conflicted the interests of the Water Resource Board.

Please let me assure you on behalf of the Board, that is not the case. The Memorial advocates for protection of state water rights for water users whose diversions and ditches are located on federal land. To that extent the Memorial is consistent with the Board's mandate to protect and preserve existing rights, duties and priorities of water. Idaho Code § 42-1734A(1)(a). Nothing in the Memorial conflicts with or interferes with the Board's voluntary programs to fund habitat improvement projects and the Board does not advocate measures to force water users to give up any of their vested rights. Accordingly, the Board has no conflict with or objection to SJM 106.

Thank you for the opportunity to clear up any misunderstanding on this issue.


Roger Chase
Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board