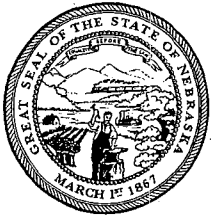


STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

October 6, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

Dr. John C. Owens
NU Vice President and Vice Chancellor of
Institute of Agriculture and Natural
Resources
202 Agricultural Hall
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583-0708

Dr. Prem S. Paul
Vice Chancellor for Research and
Dean of Graduate Studies
302 Administration Building
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68588-0433

Dear Dr. Owens and Dr. Paul:

I am very pleased to see that the University of Nebraska is proposing a Water Resources Research Initiative. As Director of the State Department of Natural Resources I would like to assure you that the Department will do whatever we can to support this endeavor.

In the past the contributions from researchers at the University have greatly assisted the work of the Department and as a result have contributed greatly to the economy of the State of Nebraska as a whole. As just one example let me point out how the state benefited from the work of Derrel Martin during the State's negotiations with Kansas and Colorado that resulted in a settlement of the Republican River litigation before the U. S. Supreme Court. Dr. Martin's research was used during the negotiations that led to the adoption of a ground water model for the Republican River Compact Administration. In that process we were able to utilize UNL research to convince Kansas to accept a level of irrigation recharge enhancement that will provide water for Nebraska irrigators that is worth \$15 million to \$20 million annually to the State.

At a more general level, the excellent quality of scholarship and research integrity provided by Dr Martin and others, such as Raymond Supalla, James Goeke and Mike Jess, at UNL allowed Nebraska to negotiate from a position of strength and win a number of concessions in both the Nebraska v. Wyoming litigation on the North Platte River and the Kansas v. Nebraska case on the Republican River. The value of these concessions, though not as easily calculated, is no doubt worth millions of dollars to Nebraska.

In addition to help with litigation, Dr. Martin and Dr. Supalla, as well as Patti Dappen at CALMIT, have been helpful in the State's efforts to develop models and management plans on the Platte River for the State's Cooperative Agreement with Wyoming, Colorado and the U. S. Department of Interior.

Dr. John Owens
Dr. Prem Paul
October 8, 2003
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As the State moves forward in implementing the settlements and in addressing the future needs of water planning and management, we are hopeful that we can continue to look to the leadership of the University to support the research that will be needed for these important efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger K. Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "P".

Roger K. Patterson
Director

pjb

cc: Dr. Darrell Nelson
Dr. Kyle Hoagland
Dr. Glenn Hoffman
Dr. Derrel Martin