

- PRO to draft response
- Gov., Larry + Aaron - fjs
F=Water 115018

January 18, 2007

GOVERNORS OFFICE

Governor Heineman
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

JAN 19 2007

RECEIVED

Dear Governor Heineman:

We continue to be concerned with the Nebraska/Kansas Compact and its unobtainable goals as it pertains to our farmers here in the Lower Republican NRD Area. We had a very large meeting in Alma on the evening of January 17th. The Lower Republican Region was extremely well represented with school board members, city council members, county commissioners, educational leaders, farmers, bankers, health care providers, and businessmen of all walks of life from each community from Superior to Cambridge all in attendance.

Leaders from communities within the Middle and Upper Republican regions were also present. Others that were at the meeting included multiple media outlets, representatives from the Nebraska State Education Association, and delegates from within the Nebraska Association of School Boards.

It is troubling that it appears our state government is hiding behind our local NRD's and is trying to get our local NRD leadership to do the "dirty work" for a state problem. Our NRD did not sign the compact, the State of Nebraska did.

As we understand it, our State Leadership has a proposal in place that would drastically reduce the amount of water our farmers could use in 2008 and beyond. This proposal would hit The Lower Republican District especially hard as it could call for over a 40% reduction in the water they have access to that has been cut already over the past three years.

Land within the Lower Republican District has 328,000 groundwater-irrigated acres. Of that, 140,000 of those acres would be negatively affected by this proposal as they lie in the "quick response area." These acres, which lie approximately two miles on either side of the river or a tributary, are on the richest ground and therefore have the highest valuation. With less water, these acres lose their irrigated valuation status.

School systems, city and county governments, rural health care, and other public entities are being set up to struggle even more as we all have a vested interest in what is going on within the Lower Republican District and their respective land valuations. It has been calculated that if the water allocation got so low on those

previously mentioned 140,000 acres and they were then reduced to dry-land status, the overall negative impact on valuations would be \$182,000,000 per year. This doesn't include the personal property, such as pivots, diesel motors, etc.

Land that de-values obviously has a negative impact on a community's tax base and therefore their school systems, county and city governments, and other public entities all begin to weaken. As this happens, an extremely dangerous 'domino effect' comes into play where schools and towns that already battle declining enrollment may have their descent expedited due to more hardships for their area farmers.

As schools lose financial resources due to a dwindling tax base, it is not only the educational system that suffers. Program and staffing cutbacks are made which have a negative impact on students and the local housing market. It is hard to attract and maintain quality staff or new students and their families. People quit coming to town and before you know it, you have another community without a school. Merchants suffer with fewer people and less visitors. People don't buy as much gas or as many groceries and the negative cycle goes on and on and on.

We need to be working to attract and keep young adults in our smaller Nebraska communities and to promote the wonderful lifestyles that our smaller communities can create. With unfair adversities such as what is being proposed currently, what motivation will our younger generation have to move to and stay in rural Nebraska? We already battle the "brain drain dilemma" of seeing some of our brightest young people move out of state or at least out of rural Nebraska. We need to work to keep them here - not push them out quicker.

Those of us that live within Lower Republican District may only represent 4 or 5% of the total amount of voters in our great state but we can't afford to sit by silently and watch our communities be issued a 'death sentence.' Rural Nebraska is worth fighting for. Our farmers are worth supporting.

We have thousands of students and future students depending on us to do everything in our power to stand up for their future. These small communities are proud and many of them are thriving and pro-active and as resourceful as any place in our great nation. This is not a plan that is acceptable. Other avenues and solutions need to be explored. Crippling a thriving portion of the state is not the answer.

The Nebraska/Kansas Compact has to be reformed to allow for augmentation and run-off plans and studies to be conducted. The bulleted points on the next page are extremely distressing:

- Milford Reservoir in Junction City, KS is at the very end of the Republican River system and it is over 94% full. Harlan County Reservoir in Nebraska is about 35% full
- Nebraska groundwater irrigators in the Lower Republican NRD are under strict pumping restrictions of 11 to 12 inches annually. Compare this to the 18+ inches groundwater irrigators in northwest Kansas (where the Republican River system runs) are allowed to pump
- On December 15th in McCook, DNR Director Ann Bleed unveiled her plan to appease Kansas while crippling us Nebraskans. For wells in "quick response areas," the annual allocation will be somewhere between 2.4" and 5.7" of irrigation even though:
 - FACT – Shutting off all groundwater pumping will NOT achieve compliance. This groundwater model is severely flawed.
 - FACT – The DNR does not know a way to achieve compliance. They are hopeful that these drastic measures will appease Kansas from pressing their lawsuit against our state.
 - FACT – The DNR and Governor Heineman are apparently OK with the idea of destroying our local economies even though it still will NOT achieve compliance

It is not your fault that the Nebraska/Kansas Compact is so flawed. We need you and your talented staff to address this issue and revise the compact so that we can survive and meet compliance with the state to our south. The prevailing question we have is why are we the only ones being issued a 'death sentence' when this is a STATE ISSUE and not something that just impacts some small towns that most folks in Lincoln and Omaha don't know exist?

This letter is being sent to not only you but also each member on the Natural Resources and Agriculture Legislative Committees as well. Our farmers have sacrificed to 11" of water while others have made no sacrifices. It is time for the STATE to show its leadership and work towards a positive solution.

Sincerely,


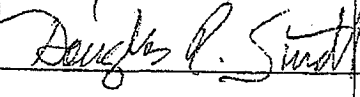
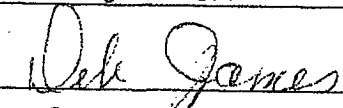

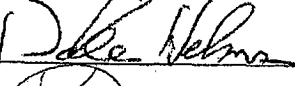

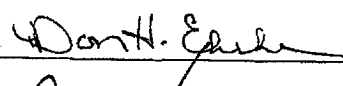

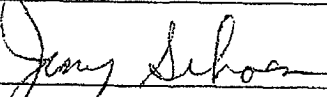

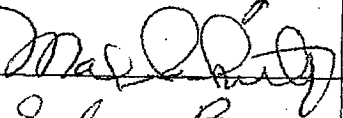
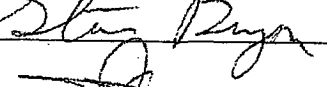
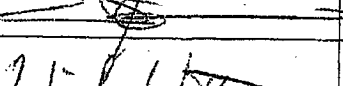
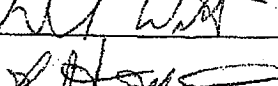
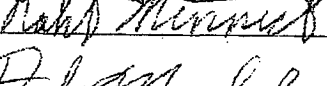
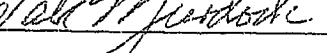
(See Signatures on the Following Pages)

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
JEROME FRETZ	<i>Jerome Fretz</i>	Hildreth, NEBR.
Melvin Christensen	<i>Melvin Christensen</i>	Arapahoe former Rancher
Troy Fletcher	<i>Troy F</i>	Oxford former Rancher
Tom TOM Fritson	<i>Tom Fritson</i>	Franklin Farmer
Marilyn Fritson	<i>Marilyn Fritson</i>	Franklin Schools
Ryan Mitchell	<i>Ryan Mitchell</i>	Franklin ME
James Howsden	<i>James Howsden</i>	Bloomington NE
David Platt	<i>David Platt</i>	Franklin / Frank's Star B-4
Deb James	<i>Deb James</i>	Alma
Gary Hamilton	<i>Gary Hamilton</i>	Franklin
Mary Schlantz	<i>Mary Schlantz</i>	Alma Teacher
Paul Waggoner	<i>Paul Waggoner</i>	Alma City Councilman
Steve Godeken	<i>Steve Godeken</i>	Former Republican City, NE
James Howsden	<i>James Howsden</i>	Former Alma
Robrey Frevichs	<i>Robrey Frevichs</i>	Franklin Co Farmer
Mike Ingram	<i>Mike Ingram</i>	H. B. Supervisor, FORMER Glennwood Dir.
Kevin Choquette	<i>Kevin Choquette</i>	Upland, Former - Electrician
Bill Saathoff	<i>Bill Saathoff</i>	Naponee Farmer
RAY D. WINZ	<i>Ray D Winz</i>	Hildreth, Ne

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
John Boehler	John Boehler	TERRACE Bank / Holdrege
TODD SCHUTZ	Todd Schutz	Farmer / ARAPAHOE
Lisa Schutz	Lisa Schutz	Arapahoe / Teacher
David Platz	David Platz	Franklin / Frank State Bank
Steve Siel	Steve Siel	Franklin / Franklin Farmer
RAY HAUSSAMM	Ray Haussamm	Franklin NE
Mary Schlutz	Mary Schlutz	Alma / Teacher
Paul Waggoner	Paul Waggoner	Alma City Councilman
Gary Goedecker	Gary Goedecker	Neponee -
BILL KAHR	Bill Kahr	Franklin
Gary Frerichs	Gary Frerichs	Hildreth
Steve Gobleken	Steve Gobleken	Farmer / Republican City NE
James Howland	James Howland	Farmer / Alma
John Siel	John Siel	Franklin Public Schools
Craig Bonham	Craig Bonham	Post school board Franklin
CAH FAW	Clarence Faw	FAW'S BOARD PRES
MAT FAW	Matthew Faw	Faw Union Pres
Gary Dunse	Gary Dunse	Huntley Farmer
James Southold	James Southold	Neponee Farmer

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
Randal L. Kuhl	Randal L. Kuhl	Logan Central State Board Franklin, NE
Jeff Wulf	Jeff Wulf	Farmer Irrigator Guide Rock, Neb
Dusty Wulf	Dusty Wulf	Farmer Irrigator Guide Rock, Neb
Bruce E. Schmiede	Bruce E. Schmiede	Guide Rock, Neb
Ken Duff	Ken Duff	Farmer Irrigator Guide Rock, NE ARAPAHO SCHOOLS ARAPAHO
Daren Hatch	Daren Hatch	
Kate Hatch	Kate Hatch	Arapahoe School
Bill M. Wiedel	Bill M. Wiedel	Orleans, NE 71041 Fence post Rd
Todd Watson	Todd A. Watson	Arapahoe Board / Irrigator
Jay Meyer	Jay Meyer	Campbell
Harry Koss	Harry Koss	Farmer
CLEO GENEFERO	Cleo Genefero	Farm, Campbell, Neb
David Schubert	David Schubert	Wilcox Farmer
Doug Cline	Doug Cline	Purinton, W.
Bonnie Moore	Bonnie Moore	house wife farm wife School Employee Franklin
Kell R. Rutt	Kell R. Rutt	Campbell, NE Farmer / Rancher Wilsonville, NE
Brian Holtze	Brian Holtze	Farmer - LENRD
William C. Bae	William C. Bae	Orleans, Ne Farmer/Rancher - LENRD

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
Mike Lucas	Mike Lucas	Franklin Public Schools
Margaret Horvath	Margaret Horvath	Farmer-Landowner
JOHN L. SCHEGG	John L. Schegg	Landowner - Cargill Fert.
Kerry L Conman	Kerry L Conman	Hardy - Landowner
STEVE RENZ	Steve Renz	SUPERIOR AGRIBUS - SCHOOL BD.
Justin Armstrong	Justin Armstrong	Red Cloud - Landowner
Richard Orcutt	Richard Orcutt	Red Cloud Farmer
Kenneth Schoen	Kenneth Schoen	Offroad Farmer
Jeff Huston	Jeff Huston	Holdrege Equipment Dealer
Jean Reznicek	Jean Reznicek	Red Cloud Community School
JACK CLINE	Jack Cline	Franklin Neb
Dennis F. Yelken	Dennis Yelken	FRANKLIN NE
James Husserman	James Husserman	Blain NE
DOUG KAHS	Doug Kahr	Franklin City Council
RUTH CLINE	Ruth Cline	Franklin - ^{business} farming
Mike Danhey	Mike Danhey	Red Cloud School Board
Scott T. Yelken	Scott Yelken	Burn Oak KS Nebraska Juniper
Gary Goedeken	Gary Goedeken	Napanee, NE Farmer Irrigator
Chuck James	Chuck James	Agronomist / farmer

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
Douglas Hammer		Franklin State Bank
Doug Sindt		Franklin School Board
David Rock	David Rocker	Franklin Public School teacher/negotiator
Deb James		CPA, Alma NE
Chuck James		Agronomist
Dale Helms		Crop Insurance Agent
Scott Johnson		First State Bank, Alma
Don Ehrke		Community Bank
Paul Horvath		Farmer - landowner
Jerry Schoen		
Jerry Schoen		Farmer - landowner
TOM OSTRIK		SUPERIOR SCHOOL BOARD
Dallas Haring	Dallas Haring	Farmer - Cattaraugus
Max Schutt		Harlan Farmer
Steve Bryan		Harlan Farmer
ERIC SPARCE		RED CLOUD GRAIN, LLC
David Witte		Harlan Farmer
Robert Minnick		Webster Farmer/School Board
Dale Murdock		Harlan Farmer

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
Hilda Herman	Hilda Herman	Innovative Nelson
Debra Herman	Debra Herman	Innovative, NE 68952
Damon McDonald	Damon McDonald	Alma, NE 68922
Jay Graf	Jay Graf	Alma, NE 68920

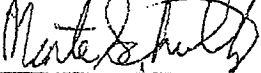
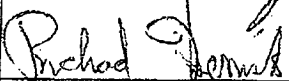
Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
Jerrell Gerdes	Jerrell Gerdes	Franklin Co Mem Hospital
Teff Loschen	Teff Loschen	Wilton - Hildreth School Board
Dana Meyer	Dana Meyer	Campbell / Silver Lake School Board
Daniel Garrelts	Daniel Garrelts	Hildreth
Tody Saathoff	Tody Saathoff	Franklin Heartland Coop

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
Clifford E Vogler	<i>Clifford E Vogler</i>	Guide Rock State Bank
Diana L. Vogler	<i>Diana L. Vogler</i>	Guide Rock State Bank
MARIEE Sullivan	<i>Mariee Sullivan</i>	Superior - Farm Bureau + Farmer
John Sullivan	<i>John Sullivan</i>	Crop Insurance Agent + Farmer
Don Tegtman	<i>Don Tegtman</i>	FURNAS COUNTY Commissioner
LeRoy Schafar	<i>LeRoy Schafar</i>	Supervisor Franklin county
William D Bungee	<i>William D Bungee</i>	FRANKLIN County PRR.
Ron Street	<i>Ron Street</i>	Cambridge School Supt.
Jay Ziegler	<i>Jay Ziegler</i>	LRNRD
Grace Paw	<i>Grace Paw</i>	LRNRD
Toby ten Bessel	<i>Toby ten Bessel</i>	LRNRD
Matt Harrison	<i>Matt Harrison</i>	LRNRD

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
Michael Dallmann	Michael Dallmann	Franklin County Supervisor
David Lienemann	David Lienemann	Franklin County Irrigator
Troy Westraelt	Ty Westraelt	Mon santo Irrigator
James A Hanson	James A Hanson	Nuckolls Co. Farmer
JANELLE M HANSON	Janelle M Hanson	Nuckolls Co. Director
James Moore	James Moore	LEPRO Farmer

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
Dallas Christensen	Dallas Christensen	Arapahoe Farmer
Lee Bose	Lee Bose	Orleans Farmer
Leon D. Lyon	Leon D. Lyon	Shelton Farmer - Banker
Craig B. Grams	Craig B. Grams	Upland Farmer
DOUG BOLDT	Douglas A. Boldt	UPLAND FARMER
David Walton	David Walton	Franklin Co. Sup.
Clinton Christensen	Clinton Christensen	Franklin County Commissioner
LEE RYBACKI	Lee Rybacki	BUSINESS OWNER - FRANKLIN
GEOFF HAYES	Geoff Hayes	Franklin Co. Farmer
Rodney French	Rodney French	Franklin Co. Farmer
Barb Overlease	Barb Overlease	Reg 13 Director NASB
Nathan Daise	Nathan Daise	Republican City Farmer
STEVE BARTELS	Steve Bartels	Franklin Public School Board South Central State Bank Bd.

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
Tom Kausse	<i>Tom Kausse</i>	Hildreth NE
Marilyn Fritson	<i>Marilyn Fritson</i>	Franklin, NE Dehoy
CHAD LINDAU	<i>Chad Lindau</i>	Hildreth, NE
David Schumaker	<i>David Schumaker</i>	Bloomington NE
Mel Wiens	<i>Mel Wiens</i>	Hildreth, NE
Rod Stein Kruger	<i>Rod Stein Kruger</i>	Franklin, NE
Kynn Moltzahn	<i>Kynn Moltzahn</i>	FRANKLIN NE
Bruce Kahrs Banks Overseas	<i>Bruce Kahrs</i>	Franklin NE
Bart Overlease	<i>Bart Overlease</i>	Regional 3 Director NASB
Scott Fisher	<i>Scott Fisher</i>	Mayor, Chapahoe

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
Monte Schultz		Fairbanks International
Richard Herrick		R.R. School Service City Council

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
Dennis Erickson	Dennis Erickson	Campbell / Farmer
Ronald Fritson	Ronald Fritson	Franklin / school board Chairman
Douglas Horward	Douglas Horward	HARLAN SUPERVISOR
Grady Koch	Grady Koch	Upland Farmer N.F. First
Bruce Tinkham	Bruce Tinkham	Superior / Agrop Inc

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
Teresa Post	Teresa Post	Naponee / Farmer
Larry Post	Larry Post	Naponee / Farmer
Brad Barwick	Brad Barwick	Orleans / Farmer
Craig Brand	Craig Brand	Oxford / Farmer
Todd E Johnson	Todd E Johnson	Cambridge / Farmer / School

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
Martin Jelken	Martin Jelken	Farmer
Rud. SteinKrugger	Rud. SteinKrugger	Farmer
Bruce Kachs	Bruce Kachs	Farmer
Connie Schmidt	Connie Schmidt	Farmer
LEE RYBACKI	Lee Rybacki	BUSINESS OWNER - FRANKLIN
Deane A Lienemann	Deane A Lienemann	CO-OP Extensions - Webster Co
Scott Fisher	Scott Fisher	Mayor Chapahaw

Printed Name	Signature	Community/Organization
Jeff Ord	<i>Jeff Ord</i>	Guide Rock Co. Comm. + Farmer
Wendell Ord	<i>Wendell Ord</i>	Guide Rock - Farmer

Lower Republican Water Task Force

Pre-Meeting for our Task Force will be on Friday, February 2nd at 2:30 PM at the NRD Office at 30 John Street in Alma. IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THIS PRE-MEETING, PLEASE LET MIKE LUCAS KNOW ASAP.

Our meeting with Governor Heineman and Ann Bleed will be on Monday, February 5th at 10:30 AM at the Governor's Office in the State Capitol. We will be in Room #2316 which is on the second floor in the northeast corner. They have indicated we will have an hour and fifteen minutes to meet.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

NAME	BUSINESS/ORGANIZ.	TOWN	DAY PHONE
Allen VanDriel	Harlan Co. Health Admin.	Alma	(308) 928-2151
Jerrell Gerdes	Franklin Co. Health Admin.	Franklin	(308) 425-6221
Paul Waggoner	Waggoner Insurance	Alma	(308) 928-2448
Terry Thompson	Gary Thompson Insurance	Red Cloud	(402) 746-2242
Dale Helms	Farmer/Insurance	Holbrook	(308) 493-5466
Duane Murdoch	Farmer/Real Estate	Oxford	(308) 991-7842
Steve Bartels	School Board/Farmer/SCSB	Franklin	(402) 746-2542
Dave Bartels	Farmer	Riverton	(402) 746-2530
J.F. Hoffman	Farmer	Arapahoe	(308) 340-5987
Mike Lucas	Franklin Schools - Supt.	Franklin	(308) 425-6283 x. 11
Linea Bonham	Franklin Schools - Teacher	Franklin	(308) 425-6283
Mel Wiens	Fairbanks Implement	Holdrege	(308) 995-4448
Jay Dunlap	South Central State Bank & Union Bank	Milford	
Kevin Slocum	Franklin State Bank	Franklin	(308) 425-6225
Gary Meyer	Peoples Webster County Bank	Red Cloud	(402) 746-2251
Ron Hunter	Ag Valley Co-op	Edison	(308) 927-3681
Ruth Jackson	Franklin County Assessor	Franklin	(308) 425-6229

MIKE LUCAS
Cell (308) 470-0683

e-mail: mjlucas@esu11.org
Home (308) 425-3111

*Options to pursue interests set water allocations
(inform users)*

if only get 4-5" per 3-5 yrs:

*conservation actions / alternative crops requiring water
dryland crops / dry-year leasing*

some contribution to make up for difference

really-persistent water mgmt. (soil measurements to determine best time to water)

**[EQUIP]
[CREP]**