

27 June, 2014

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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

To Whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter as a statement of our deepest concern for the future well-being of the area we have chosen to call home. In these efforts to curtail our usage or, more aptly put, to steal the spring waters which have flowed into our valley since man has resided in this part of the world, not only is the value of the land we have worked so hard to make productive being compromised but the entire quality of life of the Hagerman Valley is being threatened.

I, Kitty Martin, am a real estate broker and in that capacity I know beyond doubt that all values of real estate in this valley will be severely reduced, affecting not only the life investments of all our residents but the property valuations assessed by the county of Gooding. Without water our land becomes almost worthless, and the taxes generated by the valuations consequently are reduced.

Additionally, my husband and I have invested heavily in vineyards on our property, watered by the springs which are being reduced by ground water pumpers above us. As part of the new Snake River Valley Appellation, a designation becoming well-known around the west as an important wine-making region and a strong draw for tourism dollars to our state, we are dedicated to increasing yet another financial boon to Idaho. We are on our 30th year of nurturing our vineyards and to date my husband Jamie Martin has received a number of awards for his outstanding wines.

From all perspectives, as land-owners, as agricultural growers of crops, as business-owners and responsible husbands of this part of our country, we must demand that the potential consequences to land owners in the Hagerman valley be first and foremost clearly stated. In addition, weight must be given to our livelihoods, to our valley and the many benefits the entire citizenry of Idaho reap from this valley remaining intact with its spring waters providing an oasis and a source of unique opportunity to its people.

Most sincerely stated,


Jamie Martin and Katherine Martin
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