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To Twin Lakes Improvement Association, Idaho Department of Water Resources - All Other Parties Concerned:

I strongly support the reappointment of Gordon Sylte as Commissioner to the Twin Lakes Flood Control District. His dedication and experience are unmatched and cannot be replaced, nor should they be. Flood Control District Commissioners function well as a Board, and each brings a lot to the table collectively making decisions on budget, maintenance, long range planning, as well as day to day operations of the dam. They take into consideration the entire drainage with the communities' best interest at stake.

Gordon Sylte has historical knowledge, common sense, and again his dedication and experience are unmatched. It is disheartening to me that his reappointment would be questioned and in turn, I would question the motive for that. Three generations of my family have worked with three generations of the Sylte family. I have never known them to take anything but the high road. Their family has for decades performed community service on a number of levels and Gordon in particular is a valuable asset for the Community, Flood Control District and the overall drainage. We all live here for a reason; air-shed, view-shed, water-shed. This may not be Jackson Hole, Wyoming but it's close. I appreciate people's passion for the lake and admire their dedication but we must remember, without lands we wouldn't have lakes. Gordon fully grasps this water-shed from top to bottom therefore making him an ideal commissioner.

My experience in the dam goes back decades. Orin Pupo was a relative of mine and former gate keeper. Mike Pierce and Tim Sullivan, also gate keepers, would call me periodically to bring a tractor and tow a derelict dock or log out of the dam. In my tenure as gate keeper and as water master, Gordon has always treated me professionally. Contrary to accusations and thoughts some people may harbor, Gordon has never asked for, nor received any special or preferential treatment, and I'm certain former water masters Dan Park and Chet Park would agree with that statement. My direction has always come from the Flood District Commissioners as a Board.

There seems to be some concern with litigation involving the Sylte stock water right. Gordon has always taken the high road. He can, will, and has recused himself from voting on topics that are sensitive to this, again showing his professionalism. I think in part, there is some confusion as to his stock water rights. As explained to me, by legal as well as layman, Idaho State Law is First in time, First in line. His stock water right dates back to 1875, pre-dating the first dam at Twin Lakes by thirty years (1906). A flow through right is just that. Perhaps the best way to understand this, is if to say a pipe lays - runs the length of the lakes. As water comes in, his right can be served. 2015 was a bench mark drought for the Pacific Northwest. Even then, Sylte stock water right was only a fraction of inflow. In no way does this water right endanger Twin Lakes, in fact, it helps ensure not having a biohazard in lakes by ensuring water flow through the dam and creek. Other small lakes, Fernan in particular, have consistent blue algae

blooms, due in part to slack water. I attended the Northwest Property Owners Association meeting last spring. Property rights were a major topic, and water rights in particular. One of the speakers elaborated on water rights and the fact that they are real property, and should be vigorously defended. That speaker was Norm Semanko.

In closing, I'm a member of a number of Boards and have chaired my share of meetings. I believe the Flood District functions well, and Gordon Sylte is a contributing factor to that.

Respectfully,



Laurin Scarcello

Member-Director Kootenai Shoshone Cattle Association
Member-Director Kootenai Shoshone Farm Bureau
Member-Director Kootenai Shoshone Soil Conservation District
Committee Member USDA FSA Kootenai County-Plummer Office
Member National Cattle Beef Association
Board Member Twin Lakes Improvement Association
Member Kootenai Shoshone 4H Stock Sale Committee
Board Member Kootenai County Aquifer Protection District
Board Member Idaho State Animal Damage-Predator Control Board, Kootenai County
Representative District 1 (10 Northern Counties)