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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Mr. Weaver,

I am writing this letter in response to a public hearing on November 2nd held at Soda Springs City Hall. I am exercising my right to supply public comment on the proposed area of drilling concern. This ADC brings up questions and concerns that have not been addressed in the petition. The present agencies and the Multistate Trust have considered in this petition to have this area created based on public safety. After 30+ years of contamination. What is the urgency of creating it after all these years? It is to supply not the best way for clean-up but the cheapest way of cleaning it up by allowing it to continue to flow and not pump this water from the ground for clean-up.

The Multistate Trust is trying to make the issue of Molybdenum and Vanadium contamination go away by making the plume area "An Area of Drilling Concern". With only two ADCs currently in the state of Idaho and having been on this list since, it is quite concerning to me that the Multistate Trust will call this contamination as taken care of and all involved parties can wash their hands of the project other than their required yearly sampling. This is an unacceptable approach to this problem and should be addressed at once.

This approach directly affects private property owners across the city but specifically the property owned by Mr. Mark Steele. With the City of Soda Springs continuing to grow and outpace the development of new subdivisions this property is within city limits and is prime land to develop for 5 acre lots which is being considered by many in the area. By creating an ADC this will create a situation that would make Mr. Steele's property unsaleable. By not allowing this property owner to have wells drilled on his own property without having any information that shows his property is within the plume. There are no wells on the whole southern half of the boundary to show where the actual location is. Proper analysis and/or modeling of this plume should be included in the Multistate Trusts petition to decide what impact there is to the aquifer under this specific property. The ADC encompasses mostly areas that supply city water except for two private properties to the South and one to the North excluding the City of Soda Springs and private industry. The proposed boundary line shown in Figures 5-2 and 5-3 from the Multistate Trusts Petition show that there are no wells to conclude that the contamination is within Mr. Steele's property. There are two wells on the adjacent property that do not show signs of contamination and without proper modeling they could not accurately project this southern boundary line of the plume. With this little of information, it is of great concern to me that industry could potentially petition to have an area excluded from any private drilling based on their contamination of the area and put it these costs on private citizens. This is unacceptable.

If the Multistate Trust thinks they have accurately projected the plume, have they considered the influence of large agricultural wells on the plume? There is one found just East of Mr. Steele's property. This could be influencing the plume greatly and without correct information we are guessing and taking from a private citizen without cause. In an abundance of caution the ADC and the IDWR are supporting the implementation of an ADC and should in an abundance of caution be providing these citizens with city water at their cost and just compensation.

The Office of the Attorney General Idaho Regulatory Takings Act Guidelines states that governmental action should not affect private property values or create unnecessary technical limitations on the use of property. That private property may not be taken for public purposes without just compensation. Mr. Steele's property is being devalued by the creation of an ADC and therefore should be stopped. Public

safety is being used to shade the devaluation of the property and therefore should be considered a regulatory taking according to the AG guidelines.

I have consulted with an expert in local well drilling, which has been in the business for 3 generations and himself having over 30 years drilling experience in this area. We discussed the drilling recommendations from comments made by Chad (IDWR) at the public meeting on November 2nd. The comment of using mud-rotary drilling to seal the upper Blackfoot aquifer from the lower Salt Lake aquifer is not an option at all. This area along with most around the Soda Springs area are all basalt ridden areas. In this discussion the expert driller said the use of mud-rotary would not even be possibly. A typical well construction would cost 10-15k in this area. If the ADC were to come into place the well would cost upwards of 80-100k if you could pump enough sealing material to stop it. The possibility is that in these types of open formations that you may never seal it is more likely than being able to seal it off. This is where drilling in an ADC even if it were not contaminated would become so cost prohibitive that city water would have to be supplied if the land were to be developed any further. There are also no drillers that live within this local area that currently have the specialized equipment to drill this sort of well.

It is for these reasons that I would ask that you the Director of Idaho Department of Water Resources deny the petition from the Multistate Trust to go back to the drawing board and supply answers to the issues this ADC would present and address the root cause of these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Parker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kyle Parker

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Idaho State University

Life-Long Resident/Concerned Citizen