

THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

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A People of Vision

A Confederation of the Salish,
Upper Pend d'Oreilles
and Kootenai Tribes

February 26, 2008

Dan Barz
President, Flathead Lakers
P.O. Box 70,
Polson, MT 59860

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James Steele, Jr. - Chairman
Carole Lankford - Vice Chair
Steve Lozar - Secretary
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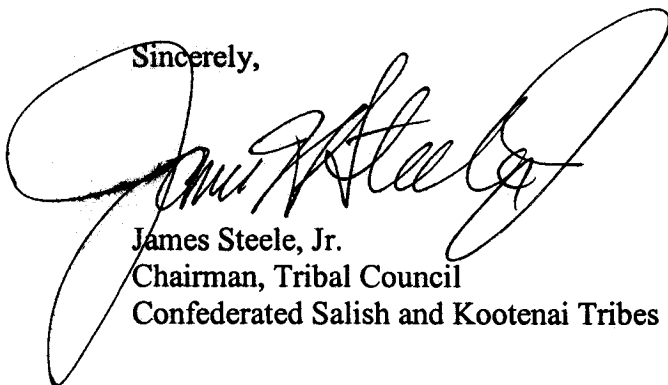
Dear Mr. Barz,

I am writing this letter to you because of your leading role in the coalition of groups and agencies addressing the growing threats to the health of the north shore environment of Flathead Lake. We commend your efforts and those of the other involved parties to protect this important area. While the north shore of Flathead Lake is not on the Flathead Indian Reservation, it does lie within the aboriginal lands ceded by the Tribes in the Hellgate Treaty of 1855 and retains great importance to our Tribes. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have a long history of use of the north shore area of Flathead Lake, and have been actively involved in protecting that area and opposing damaging developments there.

We have always taken an active interest in the protection of the north shore area. Our past actions have included direct involvement in the restoration of the federal lands lost to chronic erosion, opposition to wetland destruction by private developers, opposition to construction of destructive seawalls, support for lower lake level management during fall, and support for land protection and acquisition within the north shore area. In addition we play a primary role in lake-wide management through the Flathead Lake and River Fisheries Co-Management plan with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The Tribes will continue to play an active role in protecting this important area, and look forward to working with you and the other parties involved in this effort.

Sincerely,



James Steele, Jr.
Chairman, Tribal Council
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes