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WATER RIGHTS
SALT LAKE

September 27, 2007

Jerry Olds
State Capitol
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear Mr Olds::

I am writing to express my concerns about your proposed water management plan for the Escalante Valley. I am the wife of one of the farmers who is very directly affected by this proposal and by the unplanned and unprofessional way you have approached this proposal.

First, may I say that the value of the figures and estimations you are basing your assumptions on are very suspect. The previous water engineer has stated that based on measurements and studies, there is at least a 400 year supply of water in this area. You apparently have no idea of the actual economic impact of your "proposed" actions or possibly you just don't care. You have jeopardized the operation of business in the valley by announcing something before you have any idea of an actual plan. By suggesting that an average loss of 50% and for some people and as much as 100% of water rights, you have brought a complete halt to any possible improvements, sales, or planning for the future.

We are a part of a farm corporation established by my husband's grandfather in the early 1900's and continued by his father and uncle, and now by my husband and his brother along with our son and his brother's two sons. This is more than a business, it is the future of a number of families. This is not an unusual situation in our valley. Most of the farms are 2nd or 3rd generations with the children still involved. There is no possible way we can plan for future operation or growth with this uncertainty of water rights now in place.

It was a VERY IRRESPONSIBLE act to put our operation and all of those in the valley along with the city of Enterprise in such a position. What a complete lack of regard and lack of planning to proceed in this way. This is not only affecting the farms in the area, it also affects the city of Enterprise. Surely you must realize what is involved in the need for long-term planning.

May I just say that farming is one of the most water friendly uses there can be for water. It is only used for ½ of the year, the length of the growing season, and it is pumped out of the ground and put right back in the ground through crop irrigation.

May I suggest that it is about time for someone with a working knowledge of business to take charge of this problem so that we can know if we can continue with our way of life or if we need to decide how we can operate with ½ or less of our farm.

I have written to your immediate employer as well as congressional leadership asking that someone become involved that could at least recognize the damage done by your lack of planning or consideration of the needs of the citizens of this area.

Sincerely,



Jean Jones