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# Native American Rights Fund

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November 25, 2009

Associate Professor Barbara Cosens  
University of Idaho College of Law  
College of Graduate Studies, Waters of the West Program  
P.O. Box 442321  
Moscow, ID 83843

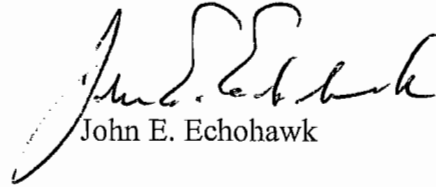
Dear Professor Cosens:

I am writing in support of your efforts seeking funding for a Native American Water Right Settlement Database. As you know, the Native American Rights Fund has provided legal advice and representation to Indian tribes in nine of the twenty-five water rights settlements that have been negotiated since 1978. Based on our experience, we agree with you that there is a need for such a database. While the acts of Congress approving the settlements are available to everyone, the settlement agreements and other implementing documents are not readily available. Collecting these settlement agreements and implementing documents into an accessible database could prove invaluable to those federal, state, tribal and private party negotiators currently involved in negotiations.

As you know, the Native American Rights Fund co-sponsors symposiums on tribal water rights settlements every two years with the Western States Water Council. A central feature of those symposia are presentations by speakers who have been involved in successful settlement negotiations intended to inform and educate audience members who are currently involved in negotiations. The availability of a water right settlement database that you are proposing would likewise be of great assistance to current negotiators who can benefit from seeing how negotiators before them dealt with these complex issues.

Good luck with your efforts to obtain this funding and please keep us informed on your progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Echohawk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "E".

John E. Echohawk