

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2603
(202) 224-2644

September 23, 2004

Mr. Richard Kuhl
President
Flathead Coalition
573 2nd Avenue W.N.
Kalispell, MT 59901-3653

Dear Richard:

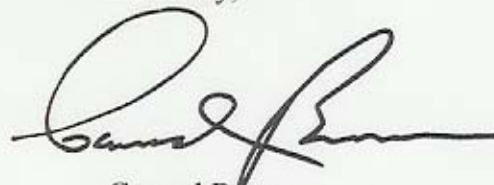
Thank you for your letter regarding coal bed methane gas development in Canada in the North Fork Flathead River Watershed. It is good to hear from you.

Richard, I recently met with Dennis Schornack, Chair of the United States Section of the International Joint Commission, and asked him to keep me informed of any updates in this situation. As you are aware, there have been no bids for the British Columbia coalbed methane tenures.

I believe it is still very important to complete an environmental assessment and allow for a review of the potential impacts before making any final decisions. I encouraged Mr. Schornack and the International Joint Commission to complete a comprehensive analysis and determine a course of action that is in the best interest of citizens on both sides of the border.

Thanks again for contacting me. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any other questions or concerns that you may have. It is important to note that heightened security procedures due to the Anthrax and Ricin incidents have significantly delayed the processing and delivery of mail to my Washington, DC office. I encourage you to contact me via phone at (800) 344-1513, fax at (202) 224-8594, or through my website at <http://burns.senate.gov>. I apologize for any inconvenience caused by the delay in our mail process. I appreciate your patience as we continue to work through our increased security measures.

Sincerely,



Conrad Burns
United States Senator

CRB:hrs