We have been abandoned—abandoned by our elected officials but particularly Senator Daines who has, unfortunately, cast his support to a separate, foreign, sovereign nation, the CSKT Indian tribe leaving behind the citizens of Montana. By fully backing the CSKT water compact, he has literally sold water rights property owners down the river.

Senator Daines used to be a true representative of Western Montana until he was turned to the liberal, politically correct notion of promoting the separatist movement of Indian tribes and particularly those of the CSKT via the Water Compact. Convinced by monied interests of the viability of Indian water rights claims, he, with his compatriot, Senator Tester, rammed this travesty through the Senate condemning western Montana citizens to be subjugated to the whims of a separate nation over which we have no control.

The Water Compact is a sham, inherently unfair, illegal and at its basest level, racist. People, the problem with the water levels in Flathead Lake is not the end of our problems with the Indians, it is just the beginning. From here our conflicts will get worse with more lawsuits, more uncertainty, division, and acrimony.

What is so galling is the Compact is being implemented even before it has been approved by the Water Court justice, Judge Brown. After hearing the complaints and legal positions of the four or five hundred objectors, it is his duty to either approve or disapprove the compact in its entirely. The trial is slated to begin in January of 2025. Our elected officials should be demanding any implementation of the Compact should be delayed until judgment is rendered but all of them, including Senator Daines, remain silent. Hopefully, Judge Brown will recognize the illegality of the Compact and render it invalid therefore negating any implementation at all.

Senator Daines made a mistake (Senator Tester is hopeless) and he should admit it, change his opinion, and support the rights of Montana citizens not the foreign government of the CSKT. But political correctness is a virulent disease which is hard to overcome. The result? We are orphans, abandoned by the very people we trusted to protect and be advocates for us. And, by the way it looks, we may be orphans for a long, long time.