

Devil Daines and Traitor Tester... Selling out Montana and the Montanans they were elected to serve in S. 3019

By Elaine Willman



There were years when our elected federal senators actually represented the best interests of their state while serving in the Senate. That ended after 1988, about the time enormous financial and political power of wealthy gaming Indian tribes came on the scene. By 2000, the Federal Election Commission (FEC) permitted tribal governments to participate financially in America's elections by contributing funds to incumbents, candidates and political parties. **No other American governments may do so.**

Indian tribes then started lining the pockets of elected officials. Tester was the first to succumb, now followed by Steve Daines. The tribes now have two more *Bag Men* in the Senate and Montana residents have no one. When these two guys are on the same page, it's pretty clear that their allegiance to 5 percent of the state's population (tribes) is more important to them than protecting and serving 95 percent of the rest of Montana's residents.

There is no better illustration than the loathsome Senate Bill 3019 entitled "Montana Water Rights Protection Act – to protect access to water for all Montanans..." The title alone is an enormous lie, likely intended to be read by fellow senators who would support such a wholesome purpose. The rest of the bill is completely contrary to its stated purpose.

The heavily funded propaganda machine promoting S. 3091 reminds me of the famous Pelosi statement, "*We have to pass the bill to that you can find out what is in it.*"

This bill puts access to water for "all Montanans" at the mercy of a single tribe for the right to use water, for much of western and middle Montana. In addition, this bill bypasses the state legislature and transfers additional lands to the tribe, gives them \$1.9 billion to spend as they wish with no accountability, and, to complete 'Santa's sleigh' to the tribe, outright gives the first national wildlife refuge in the country to the CSKT. Such a precedent places all national wildlife refuges at risk of takeover by tribes.

In addition to massive media support, it now appears that good old Greg Gianforte has been slipping big dollars to Montana legislators who formerly voted against the CSKT Water Compact. Gianforte's contributions have successfully '*flipped*' these well-known legislators who openly opposed Tester's S. 262 and Daines' S. 3019. And surprise - these legislators are now standing in support of S. 3019!



Tribal money talks, and Montana residents have now been wholly abandoned. S. 3019 is part of a much larger pattern of the federal government using tribes to systematically increase the federal footprint in states like Montana, thereby reducing state sovereign authority over its lands, natural resources and water.

Devil Daines and Traitor Tester are apparently at the tip of the spear in this movement to abandon their state and the people they were elected to serve. Both of these federal senators have completely betrayed their oath of office - and seem absolutely gleeful about it. Montanans must get Daines and Tester out of office as soon as possible.