

August 7, 1981

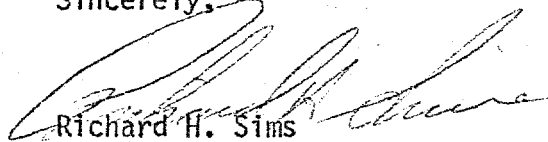
Honorable Jay S. Hammond, Governor
State of Alaska
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Hammond:

In the past year we have requested support from you for membership in the Western States Water Council. This you responded to by including Western States Water Council membership in the budget recommended to the Legislature. Unfortunately, however, this item was cut out during the free conference committee deliberations. We are saddened by this. As we pointed out in our earlier letter the WSWC membership is not an inexpensive organization but would have many advantages to Alaska and be well worth the cost. Even though Alaska is not now a member we are receiving valuable assistance from the WSWC staff in our attempts to adjudicate federal reserved water rights. This is just one small example of how Western States Water Council can be of benefit to us. It is embarrassing to be an oil-rich state and yet not pay for services rendered which has been pointedly emphasized by several states in the council.

Even though Department of Natural Resources budget item for membership was not approved by the Legislature, we feel it is important to join as soon as possible. In a way it is inappropriate for this to be in one agency's budget request because membership would directly benefit several agencies' activities. We urge you to find other sources of funds to initiate Alaska's membership in the Western States Water Council. If that is not possible we hope you include and strongly support membership in the WSWC in next year's budget.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Sims
Chairman