Director Spackman,

We are Brian and Robert Murdock. We are farmers from west of Blackfoot. We vehemently oppose the creation of a Ground Water Management Area.

We are sons of Lt. Col. Clinton V. Murdock who flew C-47's during World War II. He flew on D-Day and many other days during the war. He came home after the war was over and pioneered farming the desert with the new technology called pumping and sprinkler irrigation. We are the grandsons of Senator Leo D. Murdock, who in 1953 helped write 42-226, which is commonly known as the Ground Water Act. Senator Murdock was also on the Committee of Nine and was involved in the last and ill-fated expansion of surface water in east Idaho known as the Teton Dam. We are the great-grandsons and great-great grandsons of Daniel Jefferson Murdock and Lewis Dunbar Wilson Jr. who were some of the first settlers of the lands west of Blackfoot. They dug and diverted the earliest canals of this area.

We have been involved in water our whole lives. We learned who the "true water master" of the Snake River was during the Swan Falls debacle when Idaho Power flexed it's political muscle. We testified before both the House and the Senate Committees during the Nez Perce Agreement. We helped support House Bill 800 and then organized a bus load of farmers to drive to Boise to try and push it through the Senate Committee meetings. We learned again about the control and short sightedness of Idaho Power. We sat through the CAMP Process and it became clear that recharging the aquifer to compensate for changing water practices to more efficient uses of water via sprinkler irrigation was the best option. We have now sat and watched the state of Idaho's government and bureaucracies make commitment after commitment to begin a viable recharge program and commit to maintain it and then consistently fail miserably to meet or even come close for the past 30 years.

We have watched the incompetent Judge Daniel Hurlbutt create the biggest water mess the state has ever known in Musser VS Higginson in 1994. Since 1994 all we have known is lawsuit after lawsuit, whereby the State of Idaho has, by lack of action, created the environment of open hostility, envy, and class warfare that the writers of Idaho's ground water worked so tirelessly to avoid.

We have seen the creation of a mathematical model that is simply that: a model. Its connection to reality is only relevant and valid because the Twin Falls water courts have biasedly used it for the benefit of southern Idaho. Its use in water law is also based upon the fact that Idaho Power, a totally biased corporation, has spent millions of dollars developing the model with their experts making sure it produced the kind of data Idaho Power wanted and needed.

So now we sit and watch the latest mess known as the Surface Water Agreement play out. We read and studied the agreement and immediately tried to persuade IGWA and our ground water board to decline the agreement. IGWA used their influence to persuade the representatives on our district ground water board to

agree to the terms when they had no idea what so ever of how the members of each ground water district would comply with these terms. IGWA has a long history of ignoring common sense. This will, we believe, finally come back to bite Tominaga, Budge and Deeg. A splitting of IGWA is very likely to happen. IGWA will then be free to become the 8th member of Surface Water Coalition that they have been trying to become for the last 10 years. After IGWA helped create the SWA and promised "safe harbor", IGWA has falsely stated to you, the director, that its "members" would like a Ground Water Management Area. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

Robert and I became members of the Advisory Group for Bingham County Ground Water District that eventually figured out a way to implement the terms of the SWA. Bingham County is doing its part via recharge and dried up acres. It is costing Bingham County millions of dollars. It has cost almost as many hours in planning meetings, discussions, and meeting with and helping the members in our ground water district decide how to best comply with the SWA without going broke in the process. We are in good faith trying to keep our end of the SWA and stay in the "safe harbor" promised in the agreement.

Representatives from the Department have come to east Idaho many times and accused us as a geographical group as being at fault and that we must pay.

We are under the impression that east Idaho is following the law, 42-223, section 9 and 42-250 in which by switching to sprinkler irrigation we were "supporting voluntary water conservation practices and projects." Instead the State seems determined to lay the blame for its lack of recharge upon the very citizens who created the "Mound" in the aquifer. East Idaho created that mound. Our father, grandfather and great-grandfathers raised that aquifer and the State of Idaho is benefiting from that mound, especially the blood thirsty Surface Water Coalition, who sue us continually. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see how southern Idaho's geographical position on the aquifer only benefits southern Idaho. They are not contributing to the mound, only drawing from it.

It has become clear that the great State of Idaho views recharge as too complicated and difficult to implement. Curtailment is a much simpler solution. Beware! Curtailment and all the economic and social disasters that will follow will make the State of Idaho wish it had followed through with its commitment to recharge.

Sadly we know that our letter and testimony will fall on deaf ears. We are used to being treated this way. Yet we are not stopping, and we are encouraged by the awakening of our fellow citizens of east Idaho. We hope eventually you will come to realize that "East Idaho Lives Matter."

Brian Murdock Robert Murdock