

## S 3019

### Montana Water Rights Protection Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Native Americans

**Introduced:** Dec 11, 2019

**Current Status:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute

**Latest Action:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. (Jul 29, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3019>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** MT • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (1 total)

| Cosponsor               | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|-------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT] | D · MT        |      | Dec 11, 2019 |

### Committee Activity

| Committee                | Chamber | Activity  | Date         |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| Indian Affairs Committee | Senate  | Markup By | Jul 29, 2020 |

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Native Americans

### Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## **Montana Water Rights Protection Act**

This bill authorizes, ratifies, and confirms a specified water rights settlement entered into by the United States, Montana, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation of Montana. Specified claims of the tribes against the United States are waived and released.

The bill directs the Department of the Interior to allocate specified amounts of storage water in Hungry Horse Reservoir for use by the tribes.

It also permits the tribes to carry out specified activities related to the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project, such as rehabilitating structures, upgrading irrigation facilities, and restoring streams that are affected by such project.

In addition, the bill (1) establishes, for purposes of carrying out the bill, the Séliš-Qlispé Ksanka Settlement Trust Fund; (2) requires Interior to offer to negotiate with Montana for the transfer of specified parcels of state land; (3) requires the National Bison Range to be held in trust for the benefit of the tribes; and (4) requires Interior to make certain payments to Lake and Sanders Counties in Montana for the restoration of the National Bison Range.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jul 29, 2020:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jun 24, 2020:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 116-338.
- **Dec 11, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Dec 11, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.