

From: Fred Bates ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 5:24 AM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Living water smart

I strongly support the initiative to manage our water better. To that end we need stronger leadership from the province. We need to avoid local political spats and work collaboratively on sound principles. Comox Valley represents how not to do it as far as I am concerned. We have presented an engineered proposal to the regional district, provincially mandated water commission, and that report has not had appropriate consideration. We have some communities reluctant to provide water outside their borders, some opposed to water meters, some who would maintain the status quo and attempt to manage an old system that has not been kept up and really has not future, and petty politics about who should be in charge and how many votes they should have. I firmly believe that there is a sound solution in the Comox Valley, it is cost effective, secure, and environmentally the best option. The medical health officer thinks it is a good option, the BC Hydro reps think so, IO am confident it would make fisheries happier..and I believe it is sustainable and we should embrace the WATER WITHOUT BORDERS mentality if we are to be secure in the future. We were advised at an FCM conference a few years back by a federal representative, that *no community in Canada under forty thousand population will be able to afford its own water system in the future with the new regulations for safety..* I accept that and we need stronger direction to make it happen.

We cannot afford to wait for years of studies as we have strong development pressure and we need the development to be a sustainable community. It is not a time to be using water as a political weapon, or procrastinating causing each community to go its own way and not end up with the most effective system.

I would be happy to discuss this in person, and would welcome open discussions with the province.

Sincerely

Fred Bates
Mayor
Village of Cumberland