From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 8:52:39 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: WAM comment submission

Hello all my BC friends,

Please take a moment to write a letter or cut and paste this one to the BC government about their plans to "update" the water act. As far as I can tell, it is the first step to privatization of our water and then we all know the next step is to sell it all.

Water Act Modernization letter writing campaign:

Here are the main points for folks to write their comments on changes to the water act (or just send it out as-is). Overall the government and the public needs to realize that the current government proposal is a FALSE SOLUTION to WATER PROTECTION.

The deadline is April 30th, All letters need to be sent NOW!

Please forward to all your contacts so we can create a massive wave of involved citizens

All emails sent to: <mailto:livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca> livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca , Please include your name and address and write on the subject line, "WAM comment submission"

To Whom it may concern,

Please consider my comments on the Water Act Modernization:

Water is recognized as a human right and part of the commons. Water is owned collectively by all and held in trust by government to manage in the public interest.

A broadened scope of discussion for true water protection needs to include land use (like resource extraction activities) since you can't protect the water without considering the land.

Water Act should not devolve some uses and protections to other acts (Section 9 of the Water Act devolves water protection to various other Ministries Acts (Forestry, Mining, Gas & Oil))

Watershed Reserves must be re-established for source protection from forestry and other resource extraction activities. Watershed reserves would protect our

drinking water supplies.

Collaborative science, traditional knowledge and local history should inform all allocation decisions. The precautionary principle should be functioning at all times (no harm proof prior to new uses, not mitigation after damage). First Nations social and cultural practices associated with water must be respected and accommodated.

We need a Governance model: a FULLY FUNDED local government model with local decision-making power. Since there is no funding and the government may never grant local decision making powers, it would be best to go with the STATUS QUO (no change model) until broader scope, full funding and full public consultation is part of the process.

FITFIR (First in time, First in right system) must remain unchanged since it is a self-regulating system for over-allocation problems. Modifying FITFIR could allow government to remove water rights from established farms, water systems, and other uses.

Domestic Use licensed use should NOT be changed to a "permitted" use in order to retain legal rights Public involvement must be enlarged to cover further steps in the process. The government decision making model shows the workshop/comments as our only chance for input, and this is not enough.

FITFIR and Domestic Use must remain unchanged!

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED