From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 6:28:33 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: WAM comment submission

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I am writing to express my input about the proposed Water Act Modernization. The current proposal is clearly NOT a healthy and viable solution to Water Protection. It is hard to believe that this kind of thing is going on in BC, without the public receiving input or having a place to participate. I think there will be some very serious consequences if this goes through as it is now.

All water-using citizens should be contacted and made aware of such a proposal, brought to Referendum and decisions made with true public interest representation. Here is clearly what makes sense to me and the people I know in my community:

- WATER is to be clearly recognized as a BASIC HUMAN RIGHT and part of COMMONS- common public resource HELD IN TRUST by government to manage and represent public interest.

- The Water Act would not undermine/devolve uses and protections to other acts (ie:-Section 9 of the Water Act devolved Water protection to various other Ministries' acts (Forestry, Mining, Gas and Oil)

- Watershed Reserves need to be re-established for SOURCE PROTECTION from Forestry and other resource extraction activities

- Allocation decisions need to be made collaboratively using Science, Traditional Knowledge and Local history- PRECAUTIONARY principle functioning as opposed to mitigating damage after it has occurred.

- Keep the CURRENT WATER ACT in place UNCHANGED until a broad scope public input process occurs with full funding and major public consultation.

- FITFIR - First in time, First in Right needs to remain unchanged as a self-regulating system for over-allocation problems. Our farms and domestic water rights are THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.

- DOMESTIC USE licenses should NOT BE CHANGED- We want to maintain our basic legal rights.

- FIRST NATIONS social and cultural practices associated with water are respected and accommodated.

There were inadequate measures taken to inform the public of the proposal and the public input process. This caliber of issue needs major public process and input and accurate representation in Government in order to create an amendment or "modernization" to the current Water Act. Do NOT allow this "modernization" to occur without due and right process. This is THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION OUR PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT COULD MAKE.

Please consider all I have included in this letter. I am writing on behalf of many of my friends, clients and students. We need to maintain the current Water Act until a healthier model can be made with Public interest- NOT FOR PROFIT AND POWER.

Thank you for reading this. I look forward to receiving a response.

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