From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 9:20:45 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Regarding the proposed Water Act Modernization

I would like to provide my input as a categorical NO to this ill-founded idea.

You are not fooling anyone with this thinly disguised attempt to take water rights away from people who responsibly use water for domestic and agricultural purposes, in order to free up our water for the benefit of for-profit run-of-river hydro projects (also known as RUIN-of-river hydro), industrial purposes, and other private-profit-making commercial ventures.

The TRUE opportunity for this government would be to protect water in its pure form, by requiring source protection: Forestry, Mining, Hydrocarbon Extraction and other industrial ventures must be prohibited in watersheds.

Consider the following:

- 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 (i.e.:-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- the 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 and maintain the current Water Act until a healthier model can be made with Public interest- NOT FOR PROFIT AND POWER.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I wait for your response.

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