From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Sunday, May 02, 2010 9:12:14 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Water Act

30 April 2010

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. All water-using citizens should be contacted and made aware of such a proposal. It should be brought to referendum and decisions made with true public interest representation. Below are some points that I believe are important after reviewing the proposal:

- Water should be clearly recognized as a basic human right and part of the commons - a common public resource held in trust by government who should manage and represent this public interest.

- The Water Act should not undermine/devolve uses and protections to other acts (e.g: Section 9 of the Water Act devolving 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 should be used, as opposed to mitigating damage after it has occurred.

- The current Water Act should be kept 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.

- Domestic use licenses should not be changed - we want to maintain our basic legal rights.

- First Nations social and cultural practices associated with water must be 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, as well as accurate representation in government in order to create an amendment to the current Water Act. Do not allow this proposed "modernization" to occur without due and proper process. Please consider my letter letter and maintain the current Water Act until a healthier model can be made with the public interest as a priority, not profit.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

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