From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Saturday, May 01, 2010 1:04:55 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: the Modernization of BC's Water Act

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I commend the provincial government for taking the time to look at revising the current Water Act. Furthermore, I appreciate the public involvement that has taken place so far. The future of the BC's water is something that I take very seriously and as such I feel that any decisions made to amend the act need further consultation form BC residents. The act needs to be a true representation of public interests and concerns. Below are some points that I believe are important after reviewing the proposal:

>WATER is to be clearly recognized as a BASIC HUMAN RIGHT and part of COMMONS- common public resource HELD IN TRUST by gov't 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.

>The CURRENT WATER ACT is 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 remains 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 as well as their economic interests.

Water is an exhaustible and vulnerable resource and as such an issue of this calibre needs a public process that ensures an accurate representation of the peoples wishes. 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.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED