From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 9:09:16 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Re: Copy of a letter to send to MOE before Friday re Water Act Modernization

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED
Hello again, Red Mountain neighbours,

A Red Mountain resident submitted this letter to MOE and gave me permission to circulate it. If you do not have time to write your own letter, please feel free to use this copy. The deadline for submissions is this Friday, April 30! Send your letters to livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca.

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TO: WAM Submissions, MOE, Water Stewardship Division

Dear Sir/Madam:

I have been a property owner/seasonal resident on Red Mountain Road just outside of Silverton, BC for 34 years.

As I, and my neighbors, understand it:

1. One of the guiding principles of the Water Act Modernization (WAM) is that I, and my neighbors,

are being asked to give up our water license rights to provide a "predictable investment climate across the province.

I DEMAND THAT: this principle be dropped from WAM. OUR COMMON WATER RIGHTS ARE NOT FOR SALE!!

2. We are being asked to give up our public trust water rights to the provincial government with its corporate policy.
.Though the government would like to think they own BC's water, we currently have COMMON LAW Riparian Water Rights,

which is part of our public trust.

I DEMAND THAT: water be recognized as a human right and part of the commons owned collectively by all and held in trust by government to be managed in the public interest, not corporate interest!

3. The provincial government is dispensing water allocation based on "a higher economic purpose". My current water license, which is based on 'first in time, first in right' (FITIFR), would be downgraded to a 'permit', which would negate my common law water rights, and allow government to determine 'priority of use'.

I DEMAND THAT: FITFIR remains unchanged since it is a self-regulating system for over-allocation problems. I strongly feel that 'PERMITS' ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE!!

4. Domestic water use (which constitutes 0.2% of surface water allocation) will receive a "permit" while use for oil well drilling and hydrofracking shale gas or oil wells will carry on with no permit or license at all since they are devolved to other ministries. None of the WAM discussion papers or reports mention a process for how our water supplies would be protected from resource extraction activities!

I DEMAND THAT: WAM not devolve water protection to various other Ministries Acts (Forestry, Mining, Gas & Oil)!

5. If this government really wanted to look at water conservancy, it would unite it's Ministries and work toward this goal. With this proposed Water Act Modernization there are no standards being set for this!

I DEMAND THAT: WATERSHEDS BE LEGISLATED AS RESERVES.

I DEMAND SOURCE WATER PROTECTION!

I DEMAND SURFACE AND GROUND WATER PROTECTION FROM MINING, GAS AND OIL AND ALL INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES!

6. These proposed actions have been placed into an unannounced 10-Day Review Process.
I DEMAND A BROADER PUBLIC INPUT OF THIS PROCESS INSTEAD OF AN UNANNOUNCED, 10DAY REVIEW PROCESS!!!

This is simply not a democratic process worthy of British Columbia's past progressive and civil manner of conducting business.

I respectfully and firmly ask that you reconsider these proposed actions. I am certain that all of my Red Mountain community and Slocan Lake Stewardship Society members will be writing to you to address these issues and in one strong voice.

Thank you,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

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