From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 11:57:01 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
CC: Simpson.MLA, Shane L LASS:EX; Campbell.MLA, Gordon LASS:EX
Subject: Water Act Modernization - do not commercialize water

April 27, 2010

Dear Innovation and Planning Team,

Water should be a right, not a commodity. DROP this principle of "predictable investment climate across the province" from Water Act Modernization (WAM). OUR COMMON WATER RIGHTS ARE NOT FOR SALE!!

Your attempt to “commercialize” water is abominable. You make no attempt at comprehensive review, passing the buck that it is in another ministry, “not your department”. Do a correct review or you will face the ire of the public for a blatant attempt at grabbing the water from the common (people).

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!

As for allocating or dispensing water based on "a higher economic purpose", there is no higher purpose for water than domestic needs. PEOPLE FIRST!! Current water licenses, which are based on 'first in time, first in right' (FITIFR), if they are allowed to be downgraded to a 'permit', would negate our common law water rights, and allow government to determine 'priority of use'. 'PERMITS' ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE!!

If your commitee really wanted to look at water conservancy it would unite the water policies of various government Ministries and work toward this goal. Water conservancy starts right at the source, at the watershed. Your review needs to start there also. WATERSHEDS SHOULD BE LEGISLATED AS RESERVES AND SOURCE WATER PROTECTED! SURFACE AND GROUND WATER PROTECTION FROM ALL INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE THE FOCUS OF WATER MANAGEMENT. Your commitee seems focused on the reverse. Do NOT devolve water protection to various other Ministries (Acts).

I strongly feel that we need a broader public imput of this process instead of this unanounced 10 day review process. This smacks as a sneaky underhanded water resource grab for corporations. Shame on you.

Respectfully,
PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED