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REGIONAL DISTRICT
 OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
 "A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR REGION"

April 12, 2010

Water Act Modernization Submission
 Ministry of Environment, Water Stewardship Division
 PO Box 9362, Stn Prov Govt
 Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

Please accept this letter as the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's submission to the Province as part of Phase 2 of the Water Act Modernization process.

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is in support of the centralized approach option for improving water governance in the Regional District, wherein the Province retains responsibility. The Province is best equipped to manage our critically important water resources, and is in the best position to provide the most efficient and effective service, with appropriate input from the local community.

Watersheds exist across multiple jurisdictions, and require specialized expertise in a number of fields. Watershed management is intimately connected with the interests and operations of numerous Provincial Ministries and other agencies. The Province has the appropriate jurisdiction, expertise, and capacity to manage water resources in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako does not have the resource or the financial capacity to assume increased water management responsibilities as proposed under the shared approach.

If the Province chooses to proceed with the consideration of amendments to the Water Act that involve the delegation of responsibilities the Regional District requests that the Province provide local governments the opportunity to review and comment on the changes proposed to the Water Act, and the details of the proposed governance structure.

Further the Regional District encourages the Province to consider a governance structure that is flexible, and is appropriate for the unique circumstances that exist in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. Solutions designed to address water related issues in one part of the Province may not be appropriate for the north or its residents.

Sincerely,


 Eileen Benedict, Chairperson
 Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board

MUNICIPALITIES:

SMITHERS FORT ST. JAMES
 VANDERHOOF FRASER LAKE
 HOUSTON TELKWA
 BURNS LAKE GRANISLE

ELECTORAL AREAS:

A - SMITHERS RURAL E - OOTSA LAKE/FRANCOIS LAKE
 B - BURNS LAKE RURAL F - VANDERHOOF RURAL
 C - FORT ST. JAMES RURAL G - HOUSTON RURAL
 D - FRASER LAKE RURAL

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