From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 1:33:26 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Water Act Amendments

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed changes to BC's Water Act, and the principles around those changes. Please consider the following brief remarks.

I fully support a much more extensive and exhaustive approach to watershed management that balances natural, economic and social sustainability concerns. This is of vital importance given the geography and topography of our province, and the fact that so liottle of the land mass of the province is suitable for agriculture and community settlement. Organizations like the Rivershed Society of BC have important contributions to make to this effort, not just because of the positions taken, but also because of their ability to grow and channel grass roots community support for change.

I would like to see the use of water tied to the concept of the ecological footprint as a conservation and allocation concept for industrial, agricultural, community and other users.

I am opposed to selling "BC" water elsewhere, unless it is done with really rigorous expectations about use, post-use condition and conservation. In other words any other users of water from this province must be required and expected to meet at least the same conditions for use as we do.

The classic notion of riparian rights may be outmoded (though I'm not thoroughly convinced of that), but the principle of returning water to the watershed after use in as near to pristine condition as possible is of great importance to me (that condition includes temperature concerns as well as pollutants and turbidity issues). As we are doing with carbon dioxide emissions, I would favour a water quality tax or similar system that is tied to the quality of water returned after use, and to the downstream costs of any necessary remediation of water supplies returned by upstream users.

Water is a non-renewable resource - the global supply is finite. Thus, I think it is ridiculously poor public policy not to measure (meter) domestic and other consumption of potable water and charge accordingly for its consumption. This, coupled with serious sanctions against violating water restrictions, is a no-brainer for me. We may never stop some people from watering their driveways in water restriction periods, but we can surely make it financially unpleasant to do so!

Thank you for hearing me out.

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