From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 11:18:58 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: WAM comment submission

April 28, 2010

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Water Act Modernization

My family has held a water licence on ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***for 30 years. During that time, we and the other licensed water users on the creek have actively defended the water quality, quantity, and timing of flow of ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED*** so that we continue to have quality domestic and agricultural water.

I am concerned that any changes to the Water Act do not jeopardize our human right to quality water. In particular, I wish to make the following points:

• The Act needs to provide for true water protection. This means limits on land use resource activities such as forestry and mining. It is not possible to protect the water without protecting the landscape on which the water relies. This means that the Water Act needs to have precedence over other acts such as those controlling forestry and mining.

•In order to ensure the protection of water, Watershed Reserves need to be re-established for source protection from forestry and other resource extraction activities. These watershed reserves would protect our drinking water supplies.

•All decisions regarding resource activities need to put the precautionary principle first, meaning that any proposed activity must prove that it will do no harm to water quality, quantity, or timing of flow. Any decisions will also be informed by science, traditional knowledge, and local history. Licensed water users must have equal rights and equal decision making power as do proposed resource extraction proponents.

•Global warming is a reality. Thus, the precautionary principle also needs to be applied to any further allocation of surface water, particularly on creeks that are currently classified as fully licensed. Further allocation of water licences makes no sense in face of the uncertainties of global warming.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED