From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 3:59:13 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Water Act Modernization response

I was not able to attend the information session in Nelson. There must be more public awareness and consultation> We rely on surface water for our domestic and agricultural licenses and because the Water Act does not supersede the Forestry Act or Mining Act our water is threatened.

I believe that like Vancouver and Victoria there should be Watershed reserves which prohibit other development. Our Water Act does not promote or legislate source protection. Perhaps domestic licenses should be revised but certainly not before industry destruction of watersheds and aqua-firs is dealt with.

Water metering should be a last resort and programs to establish more water efficient domestic and agricultural technologies should take precedence. Reduce reuse and recycle. Greywater systems and regulation of domestic contaminants and the implementation of new-generation composting toilets could greatly reduce water consumption. Water metering is usually a means to an end, namely water privatization.

Water is not a commodity to be traded or controlled: It is life itself. Water is the commons and water is a human right. Commercial interests are eyeing up B.C's water "resources" with the intention of profit. The liberal government does not have a good record when it comes to selling out the common legacy of future generations of British Columbians.

Perhaps the Cochabamba declaration can provide some wise guiding principles:

Here, in this city which has been an inspiration to the world for its retaking of that right through civil action, courage and sacrifice standing as heroes and heroines against corporate, institutional and governmental abuse, and trade agreements which destroy that right, in use of our freedom and dignity, we declare the following:
For the right to life, for the respect of nature and the uses and traditions of our ancestors and our peoples, for all time the following shall be declared as inviolable rights with regard to the uses of water given us by the earth:

1. Water belongs to the earth and all species and is sacred to life, therefore, the world's water must be conserved, reclaimed and protected for all future generations and its natural patterns respected.

2. Water is a fundamental human right and a public trust to be guarded by all levels of government, therefore, it should not be commodified, privatized or traded for commercial purposes. These rights must be enshrined at all levels of government. In particular, an international treaty must ensure these principles are noncontrovertible.

3. Water is best protected by local communities and citizens who must be respected as equal partners with governments in the protection and regulation of water. Peoples of the earth are the only vehicle to promote earth democracy and save water.

8 December 2000
Cochabamba, Bolivia

Further public and indigenous consultation is necessary so that this very important process is not weighted in favor of commercial interests over ecosystem conservation and domestic use.

Protect our common law right to water. Establish single use Watershed Reserves. Use the precautionary principle to avert water destruction.

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

_____

Got a phone? Get Hotmail <http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=9724457> & Messenger for mobile!