From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 11:45:02 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: WAM comment submission

Dear Government of BC, MoEnv

I'm concerned by this new Water Act Modernization. I personally think this is an extremely sensitive topic, seeing as BC has such a vast resource of water in it's boundaries and how it affects all of our lives now, likely more in the future. Some points of discontentment i'd like to voice, though there are many other questions and concerns that i do have. Firstly i'd like to say that water is a fundamental human right, and is part of the commons, meaning it is owned collectively by all and held in trust by the government to manage in the public interest. Too often of late it seems to be otherwise. You are correct in suggesting a modernization to this act, but i can't help but feel that you are missing the public point on this one. Firstly, i am not opposed, but hesitant to see the First in Time, First in Right to be tampered with. There is little wrong with this, don't fix what is not broken... And personally as a farmer i'm hesitant to see the government have more say over what i do with water on my farm. Now, what about the land. To treat water as if it's separate from land is absurd, the two are symbiotic, and if your scientist havent figured this out then go spend a season in a logged watershed and observe the quality of water that comes down. Water and land are practically one. So what i'm asking is that watershed Reserves be re-established for source protection from forestry and other resource extraction activities. Where i live resource extraction is becoming more and more of an issue, both permanent and temporary, as in the small scale hydro propositions being proposed everywhere. This too requires a broader discussion with the public. Lastly, water liscensing in primarily and issue for a us country folk. This concept of permitting seems fishy. Basically you are asking us to give up our common law riparian rights. I hear your reasoning, but i'm not interested. Theres other ways to deal with issues that might arrise due to the public having rights, than to take them away. Find another solution for that one please. Overall it looks like a broader discussion is at hand. This is an extremely sensitive topic and i ask you don't waste out tax payer money on some new act that doesn't represent the public interest, as well as the environment. Please, lets look further into this and leave a legacy for future generations.

Sincerely
PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

Please forward to all your contacts so we can create a massive wave of involved citizens
All emails sent to: livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca , Please include your name and address and write on the subject line, "WAM comment submission"

IMPORTANT POINTS

• water recognized as a human right and part of the commons – owned collectively by all and held in trust by government to manage in the public interest

• a broadened scope of discussion for true water protection – include land use (like resource extraction activities) since you can't protect the water without considering the land

• Watershed Reserves re-established for source protection from forestry and other resource extraction activities – watershed reserves would protect our drinking water supplies

• FITFIR(First in time, First in right) remain unchanged since it is a self-regulating system for over-allocation problems – "if it's not broke, don't fix it" . Modifying FITFIR could allow government to remove water rights from established farms,water systems, and other uses

• Domestic Use licensed use should NOT be changed to a "permitted" use in order to retain legal rights

• Public involvement enlarged to cover further steps in the process –the government decision making model shows the workshop/comments as our one kick at the can.