From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 9:32:47 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
CC: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX; Mungall.MLA, Michelle LASS:EX; Conroy.MLA, Katrine LASS:EX; Bennett.MLA, Bill LASS:EX; Slater.MLA, John LASS:EX; Atamanenko.A@parl.gc.ca
Subject: WAM comments submission

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the modernization of the Water Bill. I think it is critically important to arrange for public comment on the draft of the bill when it comes out. This should not be the only opportunity for BC residents to comment on an issue as fundamental to our survival as water.

In modernizing the Water Act, these elements need to be incorporated in the bill.

1. The main focus of the bill should be protecting stream, ecosystem and watershed health. If we don't protect the source of the water, we will be fighting over a dwindling, polluted supply. We need Watershed Preserves to protect our drinking water supply.
2. The bill needs to emphasize water conservation, not just management of allocation and supply. In a warming world, what appears like an abundance of water now could be severely reduced.

3. Keep water as a public good. Charging more for using more is an important part of water conservation, but privatization of water would be a serious mistake.
4. The Water Act should be the overriding legislation so that forestry practices, mining, and gas and oil extraction and processing are subordinated to it. We can't live without clean, unpolluted water. It is fundamental to all life. Short-term gain at the expense of our long-term water supply would be folly.
5. Bill 30 rulings need to be reversed. Local government must be an essential player in protecting and conserving local water supplies.
6. There needs to be a mechanism for prioritizing water permits, especially under drought conditions--for example, fish, crops and drinking water should be prioritized over watering golf courses and lawns or washing cars.
7. Groundwater extraction above a certain defined volume should be permitted and tracked. Companies that leave the water in polluted condition should pay for the costs of remediation.
8. Wetlands need to be included in the Water Act. They play a vital role on the food chain, in cleansing polluted water and flood protection.

9. Adequate funding must be provided for enforcement.

Thank you,

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