From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 2:19:24 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: WAM Comment Submission

April 29, 2010
Water Act Modernization Submission
Ministry of the Environment
Water Stewardship Division
PO Box 9362
Victoria B.C V8W 9M2

As a director of the ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***I do not support the process for Water Act Modernization. After participating in the Water Act Modernization workshop in Nelson, I was not satisfied that it constituted public consultation. The somewhat clandestinely publicized session seemed an obfuscation of future plans to facilitate water privatization by creating a more desirable and predictable climate for "investors"

The re-establishment of historicly legislated Watershed reserves and strengthening of the Water Act to promote source protection, not post treated guidelines must be a priority. The Water Act must trump other legislation pertaining to forestry, mining, oil and gas, and hydro development. Industrial use water licencses must be trumped by domestic use and agricultural licenses. Fisheries concerns must also be reflected in a strengthening Water legislation.

The Kootenay region will be disproportionately affected by changes in legislation particularily concerning issue of IPP, so called run of river, licenses to private power companies. Domestic use licences are currently impeding development in this sector. Domestic drinking water licenses must be given priority developments less integral to life.

The looming water "crisis" makes it all the more important for full public awareness of changes to the Water Act. Hasty changes that open up vulnerability to corperate litigation through trade agreements must not be implemented. Water privitization attempts in other countries, particularily Bolivia and India have resulted politically volatile situations.

Respect for water and protection of Watersheds and Aquifers is of primary importance over all other development activities. The Slocan Valley has been negatively affected in the past by Watershed logging, mining and road-building activities which have resulted in dangerous and indeed, deadly changes to hydrology and negative effects on water quality, flow and timing. The precautionary principle must bee adopted to prevent future damage.

Intact watersheds must be preserved as templates for future watershed restoration as they are examples of advanced living ecological systems. This fact was recognized by the original inhabitants of the area, the Sinix't, who were not consulted in this process which affects their ancestral territory of the Columbia River watershed headwaters.

As a water licence holder, both domestic and agricultural, I do not give my approval to the proposed changes in the Water Act or the flawed process by which it is proceeding. Protection of Water through Watershed reserves and strengthening of water protection legislation concerning industrial uses must take place before downgrading people's common law rights to fresh clean drinking water. Water is

not a commodity, it is a human right and the blatant disregard that industry has shown in the past must first be rectified through strengthened legislation before changes to domestic and agricultural licenses if it is to be taken seriously.

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