From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 12:45:52 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
CC: Slocan Lake Stewardship; ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Subject: Proposed Water Act Modernization

I understand that I have until Friday, April 30th to make a submission regarding BC's proposed Water Act Modernization

Firstly, I wish to object most strongly to the almost impossibly short time frame allowed for submissions. It suggests that the government really does not want any meaningful consultation on such an important issue.Broader public input should be immediately sought on this issue.

In principle, water license rights should not be used to provide a "predictable investment climate" across the province, This is one of the guiding principles of the Water Act Modernization. Government should instead focus its legislative authority on the protection of clean water sources for the human citizens of British Columbia, not for an artificial/legal entity called the corporation. "OUR COMMON WATER RIGHTS ARE NOT FOR SALE!! We currently have COMMON LAW Riparian Water Rights, which are part of our public trust in Government. Water must be recognized as a human right and is owned collectively by all and held in trust by government to be managed in the public interest, which is not synominous with corporate interest!

Where water is concerned, economic purposes should be very low on the governments priority lists and the highest priority should be accorded to Human consumption and use with the second priority being to preserve water rights and quality for the environment.

The principle of "FITFIR" should remain unchanged since it is a self-regulating system for over-allocation problems. "PERMITS' ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE!

Government should not fragment water management by devolving water protection to various other Ministries Acts (Forestry, Mining, Gas & Oil)! They are not in a position to protect the broader public interest on this issue.

WATERSHEDS should be legislated as reserves and water sources should be protected surface and ground water assets should be protected from industrial and resource extraction activities.