From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Sunday, May 02, 2010 2:51:03 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: WAM

To Whom it May Concern:

I am concerned with the new principle of "predictable investment climate across the province" from Water Act Modernization (WAM). I strongly believe that OUR COMMON WATER RIGHTS ARE NOT FOR SALE. Water is a right, not a commodity.

Your attempt to “commercialize” water is frightful. Where is there an attempt for a comprehensive review regarding this matter? I urge you to do a thorough review.

We currently have COMMON LAW Riparian Water Rights, which is part of our public trust. I request that water be recognized as a human right and part of the commons owned collectively by all and held in trust by government to be managed in the public interest. Corporate interest has no business with our water!

As for allocating or dispensing water based on "a higher economic purpose", there is no higher purpose for water than domestic needs. PEOPLE FIRST!! Current water licenses, which are based on 'first in time, first in right' (FITIFR), if they are allowed to be downgraded to a 'permit', would negate our common law water rights, and allow government to determine 'priority of use'. My worry is that priority of use would be based on profit and for this reason PERMITS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE when it comes to our water!!

In order to properly look at water conservancy I suggest instead that you unite the water policies of various government Ministries and work toward this goal. Water conservancy starts right at the source, at the watershed. I believe the review needs to start there also. WATERSHEDS SHOULD BE LEGISLATED AS RESERVES AND SOURCE WATER PROTECTED! SURFACE AND GROUND WATER PROTECTION FROM ALL INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE THE FOCUS OF WATER MANAGEMENT. I urge you, please Do NOT devolve water protection to various other Ministries (Acts).

I strongly feel that we need a broader public input of this process instead of this unannounced 10 day review process.

Respectfully,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED