From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 9:25:43 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Water Act

To whom it may concern:

I have some comments which, though not making explicit reference to the current Water Act, warrant consideration in upcoming changes to the Act.

The water of B.C. is our most valuable resource. Water plays a significant role in most of the wars currently being fought on this planet. To say that water is a strategic resource is an understatement. It is the right and responsibility of the electorate to defend B.C.'s water from those who will pollute it, and those who will steal it from us via ridiculously low usage rates. Any alterations to the Water Act must always keep the above in mind.

Accountability to the voters on amendments is critical, because those who pollute or steal our water will try to influence provincial politicians through political donations and future reciprocity. If that statement makes legislators uncomfortable, so be it. The existence of lobbyists vexes us voters. Most of us are too busy at work to troll the offices of the legislature. Referenda are never too inconvenient or expensive if they avoid "the tragedy of the commons".

The Water Act, as legislated, should be a supreme standard. All water-related issues in other acts must be referenced to the Water Act. This would promote two important consequences. Firstly, it gives those 'policing' the Act a higher authority when working amidst or resolving issues related to other Acts and/or Ministries. This lessens the likelihood of a situation where a worker of a 'lesser' Ministry (eg. Environment) finds himself charitably housed in a Forest District Office, and having to be careful about when to make a stand. Secondly, the Water Act will be positioned much higher up the political food chain. This increases the visibility of management and enforcement to the public, making the Act much more accountable to the public.

If the Water Act is to be altered, any changes must keep our water under public control.

thank you, ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

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