From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: April-30-10 11:10 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: water act modernization submission
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April 30, 2010

Water Act Modernization Submission
Minister of Environment
Water Stewardship Division
Box 9362, STN PROV. GOV'T
Victoria B.C. V8W 9M2

Dear Sir or Madam: Re: Modernization Process of the Water Act of 1909

I am very worried about any modernization and amendment to our 1909 Water Act. The Province of B.C. now has jurisdiction over any bulk water removal from our lakes, rivers and streams. If any bulk water is removed and sold or exported then the North American Free Trade Agreement, (NAFTA) comes into effect in this area and our water will become a commodity and no longer a common good for the citizen's of B.C. Our water could then be removed in bulk by anyone or a company could come and remove and sell/and/ or export our water. The citizens of B.C. own our lakes, rivers, and streams. I feel they would be very angry if any change to our ownership of water as a common good took place. Water is essential for everyone to live and with climate change rapidly moving to dry up our lakes, rivers, and streams around the world water will be the blue gold. California is now drying up and returning to a desert and the government in Washington and California's Governor would be happy if we piped our water to his State like Alberta pipes its gas and oil bitumen now.

It seems the B.C. government wants to change the 1909 Water Act because they want flexibility in the Water Act, in the areas where new information and science shows that changes are needed. The new science is that climate change is here today and sooner than expected and the planet is drying out all over the world. The USA is running short of fresh water today and will want to buy our bulk water so they can keep growing their crops in California and ship them to Canada, business as usual. However, with climate change, scientists have already predicted that Canada's North will become the next large growing area for food and not the USA. California is now getting its water from their Northern States, however, it is rationed and they fear that with no water that their agricultural crops will dry out and they will grow out of business. The government our Northern Peace River area, are best farmland and agricultural land will be flooded by the new Site C Dam.

On the front page of the April 29, 2010 Vancouver Sun, the headline read; " New Energy Law: Curb Power Use – Plan calls for conservation, smart meters, power exports; private power independent producers developing power for export must do so at no financial risk to taxpayers…Power Planning; B.C. Utilities Commission no longer reviews Hydro Power Supply Plan or export projects."

The water in B.C.'s lakes, rivers, and streams belong to the citizens of B.C. Does this mean that the owners of the "run of the river" projects can sell the power and make a

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profit without giving our Province a profit? We were told that these projects were in place for 40 years with option of renewal. Is it true that our Carbon Tax dollars were given to these companies as start up grants? The citizen's of B.C were told that the Province is short of electricity power and that the Province has to buy our power from Alberta and the USA. During the election last year, we were told that the "run of the river" projects were needed and the power would be sold to B.C. Hydro. What has changed? It appears from the article in the, Vancouver Sun, that we have a surplus of power and that these independent power producers on "run of the river" projects will have free rein to sell our power on their own because our citizen's watch dog, the B.C. Utilities Commissions, no longer has any power over their exports. Instead of exporting power to Alberta and the USA we should be advertising cheap power to any company that would move here to set up a manufacturing firm or business so that British Columbia's workers will have a good paying job. The USA's Silicon Valley's high tech industry uses a lot of electricity and they could be persuaded to move here with an offer of cheap power. Our high school and post secondary graduates would then get a chance to work at high paying jobs. Also, a manufacture of solar panels could be swayed to move here also and B.C. could provide every home in our Province and Canada with solar panels. B.C. citizens could get help buying the panels from our Carbon Tax Funds and also sell excess power back to the grid. Our ecosystems are not protected or monitored adequately. Also, enforcement is limited. Lack of knowledge, lack of evaluation of groundwater, aquifers and in stream flow needs and total water supply needed for our urban and rural residents is lacking. Consumers have no information to real-time monitoring data on our water supply and actual water use.

The Okanagan is experiencing a huge shortage of water because of climate change, due to the low snow pack and lack of rain. However, huge residential developments, large high rise buildings and golf courses are still being built. Vernon and Kelowna are now voices their concerns over low lake levels. In addition, that has not stopped or even slowed down these huge developments from being built. Our city of Penticton removes water from Okanagan Lake for our use and we are worried over this situation.

Furthermore, we hear that the Federal Government has given permission for a mine in Northern B.C. (Red---mine?) to dump their mine tailings into a pristine lake under the "Navigational Waters Act" How could the B.C. Gov't allow this mine to pollute a large pristine lake in Northern B.C. when we will be short of water in the Okanagan and may have to use this water just to survive? Also, with climate change moving at such a rapid rate, the North will be the next farm produce growing area for B.C. and maybe all of Canada.

The B.C Government also wants to change the process for getting Water Licenses away from the current method of "first in time, first in line". Why is this being changed? I don't believe this is a good direction. Seniority would be gone and applications would apparently be based on "merit" instead. Who will be on the new merit list? Does this mean that a new business, and mine, or a residential development can take more lake water out of Okanagan Lake when the citizens who live here and who need this water will have to buy it and truck it in from elsewhere or go without water? What about our

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Okanagan famers, orchardists and grape growers? Do they have any merit over the new mine or the huge residential developer?

In closing, the government of B.C. by its actions lately is losing the trust of the citizens of B.C. Please tell us what you plan for the future of our water supply, perhaps have a referendum and ask us if we want our river's sold to the highest bidders? It seems this is a re-run of the B.C. Rail sellout, only this time we are giving our carbon tax dollars to "run of the river" developers to have our rivers diverted and destroyed. The carbon tax dollars should be given to the citizens of B.C. to conserve energy by using solar panels and by helping the environment.

I respectfully request a response to my letter. Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED