

-----Original Message-----

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org

[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 3:42 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act

Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark

BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

There must be no exemptions from regulations; Public, private or governmental.

In years to come, don't let the citizens of BC look back to when this government did not do enough to protect this invaluable resource.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Surrey, BC

Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
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From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 3:34 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies ensure water remains protected as a public good, provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches, define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use," rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed, ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC, include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations, ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Coquitlam, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 2:44 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:
enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies ensure water remains protected as a public good, provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches, define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use, ” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed, ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC, include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations, ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.
Water is BC’s most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC’s use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Whistler, BC
Canada

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From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 12:53 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

We, the tax paying public, should be at the top of the list when it comes to the use of such vital natural resources as water. Industries should not be allowed use of it ahead of the public and the environment, the well being of which is essential to ours. The oil and gas industries, whom you regard as the economic engines of our province, should not be allowed to use water in a way which subtracts from the well being of the rest of us.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Victoria, British Columbia
Canada

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wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 12:50 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I am wanting to ensure sting public participation and protect flow levels

Personal Identifiers Removed

Vancouver, Bc
Canada

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From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
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Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 12:22 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To Whom It may concern in the Ministry of Environment and Water Protection and Sustainability Branch, I would like to start off by saying that i am very relieved that the water act is finally being updated! That said i've briefly looked over the Water Sustainability Act that has been proposed and i have a few comments i would like to share.

I feel the most important point that needs to be included is the WSA would be to ensure that all water remains a protected public resource and to provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches. This is all of our land and so simply everyone should have the ability to be involved in something as important as this. I feel the BC government should enact strong legal protection of environmental flows, the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies as well as define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use," rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed in the WSA. I would like to ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC. I feel very strongly that the WSA should include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations. No industry should be exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries. The WSA should, especially to environmental flow provisions, apply to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my input and concerns.

Sincerely,

Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed

Victoria, BC
Canada

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From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 12:19 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Minister of Environment,

Re: Water Sustainability Act (WSA)

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Everything should be done to protect this resource and protect it from contamination. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

1. enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies ensure water remains protected as a public good,
2. provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches, define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
3. ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC, include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
4. ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
5. ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 12:02 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I am urging that the Water Sustainability Act include:
-strong legal protection of environmental flows -ensure water is protected as a
public good -ensure that commercial operations are charged a rate that reflects
the inherent value of freshwater

Sincerely,

Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed

Nanaimo, BC
Canaqda

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
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From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 11:48 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Ministers : WATER is LIFE

We /you have an opportunity to be leaders in protection of water .
The pure waters of BC belong to all residents of BC . You are charged with
protecting this precious resource . The new Water Sustainability Act needs to
affirm our collective committment to ensuring that this precious resource is
preserved .

The Act must have provisions that give the ministry power to fairly charge
commercial users for their use of water on behalf of the people of BC . And it
must have the power to monitor industrial use to ensure complete sustainability
of WATER .

Sincerely , ***Personal Identifiers Removed*** MD

Personal Identifiers Removed

Vancouver, BC
Canada

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wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 11:45 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies ensure water remains protected as a public good, provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches, define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use, ” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed, ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC, include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations, ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC’s most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC’s use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Personal Identifiers Removed

richmond, bC
Canada

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From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 11:44 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To whom it may concern,
Re: Proposed Water Sustainability Act

I would hope that you pay particular attention to the following points:

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use, ” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA – particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences – not just new licences.

No water, no life. It's that simple. Healthy fresh water sources are vital to the life and well being of every part of the eco-system and without strong legislation and a commitment to ensuring they are protected, every facet, including the economy, will suffer. Please, do the right thing.

Thank you

Personal Identifiers Removed

Kamloops, British Columbia
Canada

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From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 10:38 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

In reference to: the proposed Water Sustainability Act (WSA)

Water and Air are two of the necessities of life. This act is meant to protect the first of these. In order for the WSA to accomplish this, there are several things to consider. The WSA needs to ensure that water is legally protected as a public resource and as a public good. In this regard, strong legal protection must be enacted for "environmental flows," critical to healthy functioning of rivers and water bodies. Since water is a public good, meaningful public participation in decisions on water governance must be provided in the WSA. Water pricing for commercial use needs to reflect the inherent value of freshwater to current and future residents of British Columbians. Finally, as water is a necessity of life, the protections in this act must be enforceable and must not be subject to any exemptions current or future. Our water must be protected for living, breathing residents now and in the future.

Thank you for your consideration,
Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed
Salt Spring Island, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
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From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 10:30 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Ms. Polak and Ms. Clark,
As a resident of BC and one who works professionally in the water industry it appalls me that we are so disrespectful of our natural resources. Knowing well that so many communities and industries depend on our clean natural water resources, in a world and at a time when this resource is becoming scarcer i would think it prudent on our governments part to proactively protect it. We are accustomed to thinking that our water is infinite and pure and will always be there and that we don't need to protect it but events around the world are telling a different story.

Even in BC, those of us in the industry have seen a degradation in groundwater availability and quality within the last quarter century, due mostly to human activity. The Lower Mainland is a good example of the effects of uncontrolled practices in farming creating an unusable water resource [for potable consumption]. We know too from around North America that fracking is leading to contaminated ground water aquifers. How blind do we have to be not to see that this will affect us just as much. We have already seen in the US many cases of severe health affects from contaminated water due to fracking. Are the oil and gas companies going to pick up the tab in our already overburdened healthcare system for the medical expenses due to this? I'm not seeing that as likely. How do you clean up an aquifer once it is contaminated? The short answer is "you can't", once an aquifer is contaminated it literally takes eons to rectify. So why would we allow a greedy few to risk our precious resource for a profit that few if any of us will see. And the "us" part is important because that resource, and in fact the others being extracted, belong to us, the people of BC. The Government of BC does not own this resource except as the representative of and custodian for the people of BC. Lets see some consideration by the government for the long term best interests of the people of BC.

The natural environment of BC was here long before our culture and our borders delineated it, yet that environment in no small part defines who we as a culture and a people, not just the first nations but the current nation too. Isn't it worth protecting? Do you stand there and let foreign companies make huge profits from our resources without paying a cent for it then tell us that we haven't got

enough revenue for the services we require? The people of BC deserve to be properly represented and our resources properly protected and managed.

Come on Ms. Polak and Ms. Clark, you have a duty to look after this great province that the people of BC have entrusted into your hands. I know you can do better, if you want to.

Regards,

Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed

Sechelt, BC
CAanada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 10:12 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Congratulations on releasing the legislative proposal for Water Sustainability Act (WSA) for BC and for realizing the urgent need for BC to regulate our groundwater. Now we need to make sure it is worded in such a way as to support the intentions.

It is crucial that water remains protected as a public good which means that public participation must be utilized when making decisions on water governance.

I was shocked to learn that Nestle has been extracting millions of litres of ground water annually from the Fraser Valley for FREE!! How could such a thing be allowed and how could an obscenely rich corporation be given such a benefit when the BC government is cutting programs due to lack of funding? Such companies should be charged hefty fees for a commodity for which it charges plenty, realizing an enormous profit for the company. This resource belongs to the people of BC and there is no way it should be given away free to a powerful company that can certainly afford to pay!

We must also ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries. These industries have the ability to decimate our water resources and pollute existing water sources so they must be closely monitored for safety and made to pay appropriate fees to extract huge amounts of water.

Thank you.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Victoria, BC
Canada

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From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 10:04 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Minister; Regarding your "Water Sustainability Act" - I would like to ensure you that "the Public" is watching your government with a great deal of skepticism, and you will be held accountable of your actions, hopefully, prior to the next election date. Impeachment of your government is NOT out of the realm of possibility yet. Regards, ***Personal Identifiers Removed***

Personal Identifiers Removed
Nanaimo, British Columbia
Canada

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wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 9:51 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I urge the B.C. government to:
-enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies -ensure water remains protected as a public good, provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches, -define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use, ” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed, -ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC, -include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations, -ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and -ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Ottawa, Ontario
Canada

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From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 9:26 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To the members of the Ministry of the Environment in the Liberal Government of
B.C.:

Regarding: The Water Sustainability Act

You will be inundated with many voices pulling you this way and that. You will be inundated with with details and persuasive ploys by corporations. And you may lose your way without some simple, clear, obvious criteria to which all these ploys, details, arguments must subjected: water is SO precious that it's impossible to put a high enough price on it. To use it and misuse it, to give it away freely to those who use it to make money: abusing water to obtain something less precious to create a profit in a moribund industry (i.e. squeezing oil out of sand!), or abusing British Columbians, by obtaining freely our water to put in foreign bottles and sell to those foolish enough to buy it (Nestle's) is appallingly.

Water is part of the commons and belongs to all of B.C., so it is the right of every British Columbian to have freely water for the sustainment of life; it is the right of every animal and plant. I feel silly having say what should be obvious: WATER IS LIFE. Didn't we all learn this in elementary school? No one owns it; yet it is EVERY BEING'S MOST PRECIOUS NECESSITY AFTER AIR AND BEFORE FOOD! It should not be for sale, and yet, clearly, we must not give it away to those who abuse it. Industrial uses of water must be monitored and a kind of fine (or hefty charge) for any use of water that is not directly related to the sustainment of human, animal or plant life must be imposed.

This, then, is the challenge: rules are required now to govern industrial and commercial use in order to prevent the gross misuse that now and increasingly threatens LIFE itself. At the same time, water must be made freely available to all people here in order to drink and use for domestic purposes, such as cooking and cleaning.

It is urgent that the essential imperative, the protection of our water to preserve LIFE, be clearly and forcefully articulated in law as soon as possible. Preservation of our most precious resource must be THE criteria for every decision made in creating The Water Sustainability Act.

Yours sincerely,

Personal Identifiers Removed

North Vancouver, B.C.

Personal Identifiers Removed

north vancouver, b.c.

canada

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wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 9:08 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

1. Please enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” (the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies),
2. ensure water remains protected as a public good,
3. provide for meaningful public participation in decisions on water governance,
4. ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians.

Sincerely,

Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed

Quadra Island, BC
Canada

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wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 9:07 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
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Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To the members of the Ministry of the Environment in the Liberal Government of
B.C.:

Regarding: The Water Sustainability Act You will be inundated with many voices pulling you this way and that. You will be inundated with with details and persuasive ploys by corporations. And you may lose your way without some simple, clear, obvious criteria to which all these ploys, details, arguments must subjected: water is SO precious that it's impossible to put a high enough price on it. To use it and misuse it, to give it away freely to those who use it to make money: abusing water to obtain something less precious to create a profit in a moribund industry (i.e. squeezing oil out of sand!), or abusing British Columbians, by obtaining freely our water to put it in foreign bottles and sell to those foolish enough to buy it (Nestle's) is appallingly.

Water is part of the commons and belongs to all of B.C., so it is the right of every British Columbian to have freely water for the sustainment of life; it is the right of every animal and the plant. I feel silly saying this. WATER IS LIFE. Didn't we all learn this in elementary school? No one owns it; yet it is
THE MOST PRECIOUS

This, then, is the challenge: rules are required now to govern industrial and commercial use in order to prevent the misuse that threatens LIFE itself. At the same time, water must be made freely available to all people here in order to drink it and use it for cooking and cleaning.
sustain life.

Personal Identifiers Removed

north vancouver, b.c.
canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 8:57 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Gentlemen:

With regard the proposed Water Sustainability Act, the current version does not contain the language or tools necessary to achieve the goals of regulating groundwater use to address water scarcity, provide for environmental flows and provide increased public participation. This act must ensure that the ground water is protected as a 'public good' and include a 'public trust doctrine' to ensure that any private use is managed in the interest of present and future generations. Commercial water pricing needs to reflect the inherent value of freshwater and fees need to be set to fund a comprehensive approach to freshwater management in BC. No industry should be exempt for any reason. Meaningful public participation in decisions concerning groundwater usage, pricing, etc. need to be established in the Act to ensure the 'public good' is maintained. The cornerstone of the Act needs to enact strong legal protection for environmental flows to ensure the healthy functioning of rivers, streams and water bodies in general, thank you, ***Personal Identifiers Removed***

Personal Identifiers Removed
Maple Ridge, British Columbia
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 7:55 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I am commenting on the proposed new water act. As with all acts, they are more vague and have no real teeth concerning enforcement. I would like the new one to be different, because if we have no clean drinking water, we have nothing. Our water must be protected from pollution, big industry and climate change. The flows of water to our ecosystems MUST be sufficient, big industry must pay (not cheap rates) for theirs and not discharge polluted waters back into the ecosystem, and the public should have priority with input and use. Our water MUST stay as a public entity!

Personal Identifiers Removed.

Personal Identifiers Removed
Cultus Lake, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 7:47 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Ministers

I am writing to request that proposed legislative proposal for the Water Sustainability Act be strengthened so that it ensures the legal protection of “environmental flows,” which are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies. I want to see meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches.

It is essential that officials like you ensure water remains protected as a public good for this and future generations. The legislation should include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations. It is further essential that the legislation define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use, ” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed.

Further the legislation must ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC. We want the legislation to ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC’s most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC’s use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Yours truly,

Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed

North Vancouver , ***Personal Identifiers Removed***
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 7:42 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I write to comment on the Water Sustainability Act proposal and to ensure that the Act will provide real protection, oversight and enforcement for fresh water in BC.

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be the following:
enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies, ensure that water remains protected as a public good, provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance, define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed, ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of fresh water to British Columbians - fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC, include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licenses are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations, ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC’s most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC’s use of fresh water is sustainable.
A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over the sustainable management of this public resource.

Yours sincerely

Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed

West Vancouver, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 7:07 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use, ” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC’s most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC’s use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Personal Identifiers Removed

North Vancouver, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 7:00 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I urge you to consider that water is a public good and should be protected for at least 7 generations of Canadians.

Water in all its forms is owned as a public resource and must be sustainably managed for the benefit of the public. Private rights to water must be limited, temporary and subject to conditions that protect the public interest.

The most important consideration for me is the pricing of water.

Fees must meet administrative costs but also provide enough resources for robust water management and governance-related activities.

The WSA must ensure that collected fees go to a designated freshwater management fund rather than general revenues.

The price of water should reflect the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians. There should be a special high graduated tax rate that increases by the amount of water used each month by corporations that use the water. The greater the water used, the higher the price paid, similar to the tax code for example.

Thanks for your consideration,

Personal Identifiers Removed

Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 6:43 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I am writing because I am aware that BC is finally developing a Water Sustainability policy and act. I am concerned that the direction in which the government is heading is missing some key points. It is my hope that the legislation would ensure strong legal protection of environmental flows and would define environmental flows and essential household needs as a beneficial use rather than the one currently proposed. I would also like the pricing of this important resource to reflect the real value of this commodity not just for our generation, but for future generations. Finally, I would like the legislation to cover all industrial and domestic use of our water, that no one sector or industry be exempt. This would include existing water licences.

Sincerely,

Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed

Vancouver, BC
canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 6:41 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use, ” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC’s most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC’s use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Salt Spring Island, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 3:36 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use, ” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC’s most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC’s use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Personal Identifiers Removed

woodhaven, michigan
united states

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2013 12:10 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Hi, ministers,

The land we live on is rich with history. Please be compassionate stewards. Include in the Water Sustainability Act legislation which protects the natural ebb and flow of the earth in its rivers, offer the water to the people to protect and use, grant future generations the benefit of this resource. Protect river, sea, stream, ground and lake water from resource extraction, human and industrial pollution. Honour wetlands as the lungs of the earth. Stand up. Fight the power.

- ***Personal Identifiers Removed***

Personal Identifiers Removed
Vancouver, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 10:23 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

This is very good news,

Water should be public good and sustainable.

Personal Identifiers Removed
Hilversum , Noord Holland
Netherlands

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 10:03 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To Whom it may concern'

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Please ensure and enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies ensure water remains protected as a public good, provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches, define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use," rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed, ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC, include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations, ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences. Water is a huge bonus and we must ensure it is handled carefully. thank you

Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed

Fort St John, British Columbia
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 10:02 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
ensure water remains protected as a public good,
provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use, ” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC’s most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC’s use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Personal Identifiers Removed

eugene, or
us

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 9:59 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To the MLA's involved in the new water act of B.C.

It is most vital that we protect our water, groundwater, and river, lakes, and streams in this province. I therefore strongly request that you enact legislation that ensures that the water in this province remains protected for the public good. Water is essential for our survival and for our health.

Therefore the environmental protection of the flow of water and the availability of pure water for essential household needs must be defined as essential and as a right for all people living and residing in this province, and must be defined in such a way that it is protected, such as being defined as "beneficial use". In addition water pricing for commercial use must reflect the inherent value of freshwater to us all, and the fees for its commercial use must be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in B.C. This pricing should be higher for commercial use of companies that are foreign owned, and that are using water not for essential use. Water must be under the public trust, and any and all private rights granted under water licences must be managed in the interest of the people of this province, and the water must be protected for our present and future generations. In addition, no industry should be exempt from the WSA. This is essential especially with regard to oil and gas industries, that use a tremendous amount of water, and to timber industries as well. All environmental flow provision must apply to all water licences including ones that have already been granted, and these must be under the jurisdiction of the Water Sustainability Act.

The precious resource of water which we have been granted from God here in this province must be protected and guarded so that we have sustainability and have safe, and unpolluted water, and that we have enough water for all the needs of the people of this province, considering our growing population, the effects of climate change both now and in the future, and protecting water given the growing developmental pressures of this growing province.

We also consider it most vital that meaningful public participation in the decisions regarding water and the governance of it be provided, including the active participation of the native communities of this province.

Sincerely,

Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed

Surrey, B.C.
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 9:36 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Protect our waters, including rivers. lakes, and OCEANS!

Personal Identifiers Removed

Port Alberni, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 9:29 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Premier Clark,

For your children and for all British Columbians please ensure water remains protected as a public good. Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over the sustainable management of this public resource.

In updating the 104 years old Water Act, you have a great responsibility to the future of BC. As Premier we count on you to have a caring vision of water use in the best interest of this province and its people for many generations to come. We hope you will make sure to enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies. Be mindful to carefully define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use," rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed.

Please manage our resource well and ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC. Ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

There will be strong pressure on you to give away our resource to private interest. Let the people of BC help you remain strong: provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches and include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations.

Honor the position you have been elected to by standing up for BC, protect our rights to water.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed

Victoria, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 8:44 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Honourable Members,

It is very important to me that the Water Sustainability Act protect environmental flows, ensure water is protected as a public good, and ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA. British Columbia's fresh water is an extremely valuable and extremely desired natural resource. It must be respected and protected and never taken for granted.

Respectfully,
Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed
Hope, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 8:12 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Once you destroy our water ways we will see you watch the destruction of the land and you will be ACCOUNTABLE for you're action , or rather Inaction to keep our land and water safe and the world is always VICTORIOUS in Her PAYBACK , Its not nice to destroy "MOTHER NATURE " !

Personal Identifiers Removed

Ypsilanti , Michigan
USA

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 7:43 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I am concerned about the weak language used to enforce the WSA which undermines its intent. The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

1. enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
2. ensure water remains protected as a public good,
3. provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
4. define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use, ” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
5. ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
6. include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
7. ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
8. ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC’s most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC’s use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Sincerely

Personal Identifiers Removed

Vancouver BC ***Personal Identifiers Removed***

Personal Identifiers Removed

vancouver, bc
canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 7:41 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Greetings,

Again we have the opportunity to protect the future for our children.

Enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows".

Ensure water is protected as a public good.

Make sure that commercial use of fresh water is regulated and charged with high enough fees to fund a comprehensive approach to water management.

Yours truly,

Personal Identifiers Removed

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 7:32 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Ms Polak and Ms Clark,

The proposed Water Sustainability Act (WSA), to be introduced in the spring of 2014, will regulate groundwater in BC (BC is currently one of the only jurisdictions in North America that has no groundwater regulation), and it says it will also address water scarcity, provide for environmental flows and increase public participation.

However, as it stands now, the WSA does not contain the tools or language required to meet these laudable goals. Instead of clear and enforceable standards, in many cases the WSA contains weak language and voluntary "guidelines" instead of enforceable legal "standards."

The BC government needs to ensure that these things are included in WSA:

- *enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- *ensure water remains protected as a public good,

- *provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,

- *define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use," rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,

- *ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,

- *include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,

- *ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and

*ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Sincerely,

Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed

Calgary, Alberta
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 7:28 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Minister Polak,

Such wonderful news to hear of the impending Water Sustainability Act to help protect the world's most valuable resource. I do hope that this Act does what it is designed to do to ensure that future generations will have access to clean drinking water from our healthy earth.

I am concerned about the desertification that is taking place around the world due to the extraction of too much water. Water is NOT a renewable resources. It is FINITE, and it is under the earth as part of nature's way of cleaning it and restoring it to its pure state for human consumption. With the increase in the human population, more and more water is locked up IN human bodies and is inaccessible for drinking. The demands on our water supply far outweigh the earth's ability to clean and purify it for our consumption to keep us alive. Water is more important to protect than any other single resource.

Please please please, consider the following during this crucial time of finalizing this act:

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies ensure water remains protected as a public good, provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches, define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed, ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC, include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations, ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

I am truly grateful for your consideration, and hope that you will find the strength to go against the wishes of large corporations and protect the most valuable and precious resource there is.

"When the well is dry, we learn the worth of water."
Benjamin Franklin

With respect,

Personal Identifiers Removed

Mother, Daughter, Sister, Aunt, Employer, Educator, Friend & Fellow Human Being

Personal Identifiers Removed

North Vancouver, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 7:17 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Greetings

I wish to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.
Water, like air, is part of life. It is not to be given away free to
corporations.

Living healthy water depends on healthy watersheds and responsible practices in
all human activities... including mining, logging, oil and gas extraction,
farming, fish farming, bottle water sales, and everyday practices like dumping
hormones and pesticides down the drain.

Water usage is a moral choice like other human activities.
I would hope that BC residents and the BC government workers would work together
to create and support legislation and policies which safeguard watersheds, lakes
and rivers.

This would include legislation and policies such as requiring:
mining companies having to control tailings and treatment water; e.g. not in
Buttle Lake; logging companies having to restore watersheds; not just leave clear
cuts; oil and gas extraction being controlled near rivers and lakes; farms
controlling manure contamination of water, especially when cattle use hormones;
limiting the giving of water to companies, that bottle it in plastic and then
sell it abroad; banning the use of yard pesticides by consumers.

Caring for water would also require that the government:
carry on ongoing transparent public hearings to identify the residents'
wishes;
avoid promising things to corporations and then letting taxpayers pay for the
lost opportunities and profits of corporations as policies change, set a price on
water for ALL users, so that corporations must pay for the water they sell, and
for the water they use to extract other resources such as gas, oil and other
minerals; ensure all corporate uses of water include processes to restore water
integrity; ensure all corporations must obtain water licenses, pay a reasonable
set rate for water, conform to BC legal obligations re water and land use, and
submit to government monitoring of their practices.

No corporation should be exempt for any reason from the WSA.

Over my last 40 years... I have been involved in public hearings and letter writing, asking BC and Federal governments to select and apply policies that would safeguard lands, water, and life.

From working in Central America, I have come to know communities suffering from lack of government legislation to control corporate activity... corporations that usually are based very far away. People were often persecuted for standing up to these industrial activities, that often degraded their communities... For example, Canadian mining companies.

My hope continues to be that in a democracy, where education and the rule of law are supposed to apply, we can safeguard land, sea and air.. for future generations.

Thank you

Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed

Duncan, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 7:16 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use, ” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC’s most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC’s use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Thank you for taking the time to carefully consider these valid and important points which I strongly agree will improve the sustainability of our amazing water resource in British Columbia.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Eagle Creek, British Columbia
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 7:13 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use, ” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC’s most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC’s use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Vancouver, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 7:08 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I am pleased that you are going to update B.C.'s Water Sustainability Act. In order for this act to be successful I encourage you to include several points in the act.

Please keep water as a public asset, and allow and encourage public participation in governing local waters.

I teach students at the Nanaimo River Fish Hatchery about nature and salmon. Adequate water levels are essential to spawning salmon, so the act must provide legal protection of environmental flows. These flows along with essential household needs must be defined as a beneficial use instead of the currently proposed narrow and private use oriented definition.

Oil and gas and timber industries must not be exempt from the Water Sustainability Act. They use enormous quantities of water. All industry should abide by the Water Sustainability Act, applying environmental flow provisions not just for new licences, but also existing licences.

Present and future generations interests need to be protected by including a public trust doctrine ensuring that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed.

When water is used for commercial or industrial uses, the price of said water needs to take into account the inherent value of fresh water to all British Columbians. These fees must be high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Chemainus, British Columbia
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 6:33 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Thank you for taking steps to update BC's management of our fresh water resources. Please ensure that no industry is exempt from the Water Sustainability Act and that it takes steps to protect environmental flows. No economic benefit outweighs this resource that all our lives depend on.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Cumberland , BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 6:22 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Ministry,

As a British Columbian who uses and benefits from clean, fresh, abundant water in many ways (as everyone does), I applaud you for developing and introducing new water legislation for the province. Please ensure that the final Act includes the following concepts:

- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use",
- enshrine water as a public good, with a public trust doctrine that protects future generations,
- include mechanisms for meaningful public participation in decisions on water use,
- price water for commercial use appropriately (I for one am surprised at how little commercial users pay now),
- do not exempt any industry from the legislation, and
- do not grandfather any existing water licenses from the application of the act.

I look forward to hearing from you about these proposed changes to the Water Sustainability Act.

Yours truly,

Personal Identifiers Removed

New Westminster, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 6:10 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Minister,

I write simply to reiterate the points made by the Wilderness Committee and Ms. Barlee. I could also write as an Okanagan Orchardist and as a former director of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, but my issues remain the same.

It is high time our values about water and our legislation be brought into what is now the Third Millennium. Water is essential to life. An economy based on liquid hydrocarbons is no longer essential. Fish, wildlife and a viable biosphere are critical.

Please heed these concerns of the Wilderness Committee.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Farmer
Summerland, BC

Personal Identifiers Removed

Summerland, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 6:05 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies ensure water remains protected as a public good, provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches, define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use,” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed, ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC, include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations, ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC’s most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC’s use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Victoria, British Columbia
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 6:03 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Minister of the Environment Mary Polak:

There is nothing more important than taking care of the environment in BC, especially the water. Water is BC's most vital and irreplaceable natural resource. Growing populations, development pressures and the changing climate make it imperative that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. There must be no private rights to water that take precedence over the sustainable management of our water. The Water Sustainability Act must be far reaching and spare no efforts to ensure the protection of our most precious resource for the future. In my opinion, the most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- Keep BC water for the public of BC under a Public Trust Doctrine
- Make sure that the public participates in water governance issues
- Water pricing for industry must be enormously increased so that exploitative corporations pay more than private households
- Any corporate use of BC water must return the water in good condition or pay whatever costs it requires to remediate the water
- Enact strong legal protection of environmental flows which need to be defined as a "beneficial use"
- Fresh water management in BC must be undertaken with the most advanced technologies and under highly qualified scientists
- No industry is exempt from the WSA - especially the oil and gas, and timber industries
- WSA provisions must apply also to existing water licences - not just new licences

Personal Identifiers Removed

Victoria, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 5:55 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The proposed Water Sustainability Act must contain meaningful provisions to protect BC's most precious natural resource. I fully support the recommendations made by the Wilderness Committee in regards to the proposed WSA, as follows:

- enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies

- ensure water remains protected as a public good,

- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,

- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use, ” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,

- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,

- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,

- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and

- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

It is well worth repeating this from the Wilderness Committee: Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Vancouver, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 5:54 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies ensure water remains protected as a public good, provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches, define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use,” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed, ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC, include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations, ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC’s most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC’s use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Personal Identifiers Removed

Victoria , Bc
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 5:48 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Ms. Premier,
It is good that B.C. is drafting new regulations for water use, but please make
sure that those rules reflect the immense value that fresh water represents. Make
sure that industrial use will be regulated and that industry pay for its water at
a level that reflects the value of this precious commodity./Remember that water
is a public good and without it there is no life.
Sincerely, ***Personal Identifiers Removed***

Personal Identifiers Removed
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 5:47 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Environment Minister,
Please create a smart, modern Water Sustainability Act that recognizes freshwater
as a public good and provides for real protection of this precious resource.

The Act needs to:

- enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use,” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Thank you,

Personal Identifiers Removed

Nelson, B.C.
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 5:46 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I am glad to see that attention is being made to our provinces water flows. I have serious concerns about the decreasing water levels in the TNRD specifically the lakes along highway 24 that flow through and drain into the Eakin Creek system. The water levels of a lake I have been observing for the past 50 years has dropped significantly and is an alarming 1.5 - 2 ft lower than previous years. I have tried to contact the ministry of environment in Kamloops to find out if there are explanations for these decreasing levels but have not being able to get a response. This lake, 'Lac des Roches' is touted as the 'most photographed lake' in B.C. but any further regard for its sustainability seems to go unnoticed. There is a serious environmental strain on this unique and beautiful lake which I hope may be attended to through this proposed Water Sustainability Act.

Thank you,

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Personal Identifiers Removed

North Vancouver, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 5:41 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Hon Premier, Minister, Friends: We need to protect our priceless water resources from unbridled waste, damage, exploitation. In the WSA please:

*enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," (the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies),

*ensure water remains protected as a public good,

*provide for meaningful public participation in decisions on water governance, fees must be high enough to fund a comprehensive strategy for water management in BC and,

*ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians.

Also please be sure to:

*include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations, and *ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Sincerely, ***Personal Identifiers Removed***, BC resident since 1957

Personal Identifiers Removed

Vancouver, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 5:38 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries

ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," (the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies), ensure water remains protected as a public good,

Personal Identifiers Removed

lindsay, ontario
canada

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From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 5:29 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Premier Clark,

My concerns are many but fundamentally I believe you and all British Columbians have a responsibility to protect our extremely valuable water resources.

I know you do not need a lecture on understanding the value of water, be it here or any other area of the world. Our survival as well as that of many other species depends on it and I feel the decisions that will be made in the upcoming Water Sustainability Act are crucially important.

Let's not give it away or have it abused by large corporate interests. We pay to have water delivered to our homes so why should Nestle or any other company just simply be allowed to take it. I would like to see a reasonable charge put on the commercial use of OUR resource.

As a mother I would like to know that you and your Government are willing to protect this valuable resource and that my children and their grandchildren will never be without water.

Sincerely,
Personal Identifiers Removed

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 5:23 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Hello,

I am writing express comment on the new Water Sustainability Act. Maintaining clean freshwater in our province is of the utmost importance to me. The new Act should insure that the government needs to carefully manage freshwater and ensure that licenses are only temporary rights to use the resource in a responsible manner. When industry pollutes our rivers and watersheds in order to save on short-term expenses- nobody's being fooled- we are only delaying greater long term costs.

We are so very fortunate to live in a province with such abundant freshwater. Let the new bill properly address the necessary issues so that future generations may also be proud.

Regards,

Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed

Vancouver, BC
Canada

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From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 5:23 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Ministry,

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

enact strong legal protection of “environmental flows,” the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies

ensure water remains protected as a public good,

provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,

define environmental flows and essential household needs as a “beneficial use,” rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,

ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,

include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations, and

ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC’s most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC’s use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Yrs,

Personal Identifiers Removed

Personal Identifiers Removed

Kenmore, WA
United States

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org

From: webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org
[mailto:webmaster@wildernesscommittee.org] On Behalf Of ***Personal Identifiers
Removed***

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 4:58 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water Sustainability Act
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch PO Box 9362
Stn Prov Gov Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Ministry of Environment staff, Premier Clark and Minister Polak,

Thank you for heeding the calls to finally update BC's massively outdated Water Act. I'm hopeful that with the input of experts and concerned members of the public, you will do the right thing and ensure that this legislation, when passed, contains meaningful protections for our most vital resource.

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use," rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Please consider these comments as you move forward in the process of developing strong, enforceable legislation to protect BC's fresh water. Thank you for your time!

Personal Identifiers Removed

Vancouver, BC
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at
wildernesscommittee.org