

November 14, 2013

RE: Water Sustainability Act,

Maintaining a sustainable food and water supply are the number 1 priority to provide the high quality of life for British Columbians and Canadians. In order to provide this the agriculture sector needs to be guaranteed the right and access to water.

It is important to retain the “First in Time, First in Right” model of licencing. By retaining FITFIR, it will give agricultural producers the security needed to be able to plan for their operation, helping to maintain a food supply.

Agriculture needs to be given priority over other users such as oil, gas, mining, etc.; with the expansion of communities or subdivisions occurring only where adequate water is available without interfering with agricultural use.

Unrecorded use by livestock and access to water on private and crown land must be recognized and secure.

Invest in water storage infrastructure to conserve water for peak flow periods when water flows are less and demand is higher, this would also help eliminate the destruction of stream bank, etc. in high flow periods.

It is very important to keep water licencing costs low and avoid water metering so that the agricultural sector can remain viable. The importance of agriculture and food security is undeniable. Without the ability to produce food locally, British Columbians will run the risk of facing food shortages in the future and the need to rely on other countries with no guaranty on cost, quality and supply.

Sincerely,

Harold Turner

Turner Ranch Ltd
Pritchard, BC