

July 21, 2007

Mr. B. Penner,
Minister of Environment, Water
Stewardship & Sustainable Communities
Provincial Government Building
Victoria, BC

Dear Mr. Penner:

As a resident of the Sunshine Coast who depends on Chapman Creek for clean drinking water, I am writing to add my voice to those who protest logging in our watershed.

Recently five members of our community challenged Western Forest Products' "right" to log in this area. As a result, they now face a court injunction and considerable legal costs. Coast residents are contributing to a defense fund in gratitude to these five people who personally risked so much, but I find it absolutely shameful that the citizens of this area are being called upon to do the job that your government should be doing. Protecting our drinking water should be a priority in every community and it is your job as government to set and enforce standards that keep our water supply clean and available. It is shameful that ordinary citizens must risk civil and/or criminal court proceedings and financial hardship to courageously protect what you refuse to protect.

I read that the Greater Vancouver Regional District won't allow even hiking in their watershed areas because they know how fragile these ecosystems are and how vital they are to the health of the community. The "boil water" advisory in Vancouver last year shows how easily a water supply can be compromised. Yet we allow roads to be built and entire stands of trees, some many hundreds of years old, to be demolished in our watershed without any apparent concern for the consequences.

This insistence on profit over the health and well-being of citizens is short-sighted. Clean drinking water is a necessity of life. I urge you to stop the logging in this fragile area. Waive the stumpage fees and tell the companies that are there to leave. Rescind all licenses to log in this area. Permanently protect this sensitive and essential area now. Show some of the same courage that these five people have shown by standing on the road and saying NO to the destruction of our watershed.

Please keep me informed of your actions in this regard.

Sincerely,

Patt McGuire
Roberts Creek, BC
joeandpatt@dccnet.com

cc: Mr. G. Campbell, Premier
Mr. R. Coleman, Minister of Forests & Range
Ed Steeves, SCRD Chair
Coast Reporter
The Local Newspaper
Nicholas Simons, MLA

