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To Whom It May Concern:

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

We are a small business in Johnson County; we are a family owned ranch.

If the proposed revisions to Chapter 1, Water Quality Rules and Regulations are adopted, you will essentially hobble our ability to negotiate the use of a commodity that is produce as a by product of subleasing our surface.

We live in Wyoming where water is a precious commodity. Our bottom line "lives or dies" each year based on our annual precipitation. This past summer we lost livestock due to the extended drought and lack of water. Our neighbor, however, had Coalbed Methane water being pumped into a reservoir in an adjacent pasture and we were able to move our cattle on to water. Crazy Woman Creek has gone dry 5 out of the last 6 years. Thanks to Coalbed Methane production we have stock water in a pasture that has historically relied on Crazy Woman Creek for water. Ranchers need to maintain the ability to negotiate how they want to use this by-product (water) of Coalbed Methane production.

Currently each rancher has the right and ability to negotiate an arrangement that enhances their personal operation. If these rules are adopted this right and ability will be lost.

Each rancher's needs and uses vary widely. Passing a stringent set of rules to meet the desires of a few will cripple the ability of the majority of landowners to work with the Coalbed Methane Industry. We can work with the Coalbed Methane Industry or we can force them out of Wyoming with increasingly **unreasonable rules and regulations**. Do we really want to cut off the head of "the goose that is laying the golden eggs"?

As private landowners we want the right to negotiate how we will use a precious commodity (water) that is produced on our business property.

In times of drought and ever narrowing profit margins it is imperative that we maintain a voice in what is done with the water that is produced on our property.

The Governor has developed *CBNG Task Force* to look into this very issue. This task force is currently holding meetings around the state of Wyoming to gather information. They will submit their findings at their October 2007 meeting.

If you are not prepared to summarily **deny** this PRBRC Petition, then please, table this matter until the Governor's task force has assembled its findings.

Sincerely,



Scott and Lorri Lutterman

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