



REPRESENTATIVE Jack D. Landon, Jr.  
WYOMING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council

January 4, 2007

Environmental Quality Council  
Herschler Building, Room 1714  
122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Council members,

This letter is to express my support for the Councils consideration of the issue of quantity of CBM discharge water.

The late economist Milton Friedman, a staunch libertarian, had little use for many government regulations. He did advocate that there were places where regulation was appropriate. One was the regulation of monopolies. Another was regulation to protect individuals from what he called 'neighborhood effect'.

Neighborhood effects are consequences of actions made by a neighbor that spills over onto adjacent properties and cause damage or loss to those neighboring properties. Clearly, we have neighborhood effect when an upstream neighbor releases water onto downstream neighbors. That effect may be minimal with a low amount of water, but it may be severe as the quantity of water increases.

The property can be damaged permanently due to chemical changes in the soils. That, along with water logging destroys native plant communities. Destruction of sustaining alluvial valleys and draws that have evolved over millions of years and can sustain conservative agricultural practices in perpetuity may sound alarmist, but that can be the sad result.

Of course the worse possible neighborhood effect is the total loss of property by erosion. This is a realistic outcome when large quantities of water are released into fragile sedimentary prairie ecosystems, especially where topography enhances the energy of the stream.

Thank you for your deliberation concerning this important issue.

Sincerely,

Representative Jack D. Landon, Jr.

COMMITTEE:  
*Judiciary*