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From: Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Robert and Nancy Sorenson
7241 U. S. Highway 14-16
Arvada, WY 82831

To:

DEQ Water Quality Division
Attn: Bill DiRienzo
Herschler Building, 122 @. 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: DEQ Chapter 1 Water Quality Rule Changes
Ag Protection Policy Changes

Comments:

Dear Mr. DiRienzo:

Please forward a copy of these comments to the members of the
Environmental Quality Council before their meeting on Thursday,
February 15, 2007.

Thank you.

FAX 307-177-5973

3 pages

Robert and Nancy Sorenson
7241 US Highway 14-16
Arvada, WY 82831
February 10, 2007

DEQ Water Quality Division
Attn: Bill DiRienzo
Herschler Building - 4W
122 W. 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

To Members of The Environmental Quality Council:

We are writing in regards to the DEQ Chapter 1 Water Quality Rule Changes before the Environmental Quality Council, Ag Protection Policy.

Thank you for all the work your Council has done in considering rules to protect Agricultural lands. The members have been subject to unbelievable pressure from the extractive industries, and your careful consideration of all points of view is greatly appreciated.

We believe that a simpler and stronger agricultural protection policy is needed at this time:

We would like to see lower default limits for EC and SAR to ensure protection of soils, grazing lands and irrigated lands: EC of 1500 and SAR of 8 or 10.

We do not think any landowner who does not want water on his lands should be forced to accept this water and have it damage or destroy his or her land and vegetation.

We believe all ephemeral draws and bottomlands their soils and vegetation should be protected regardless of their size. Many times these areas are the best source of grass and forage for cattle and wildlife, especially in times of drought.

We believe CBM discharge water should meet irrigation water standards at the point of use, not at the point of discharge.

We believe that industry should have the burden of proof that discharge water will not harm existing uses, not the landowner.

We believe the Ag Protection rules need to be simplified by eliminating the tier two and tier three process whereby industry can try and get higher EC and SAR limits, based on faulty science. We believe that EC and SAR limits should follow the "Hanson Chart."

We do not believe that streams and draws should be re-categorized as "effluent dependent" which would further degrade these streams.

We cannot understand why individual property owners must bear the burden of the produced water from CBM activities. If the CBM industry can only do business by destroying property that does not belong to them, then surely this is not a very successful business.

Sincerely yours,
Robert and Nancy Sorenson