EBINDIV

May 1, 2008

Joe Knollenberg
308 Northwestern HWY STE. 100
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Dear Representative Knollenberg,

As a well driller and business owner in Michigan, I am very concerned about the proposed water legislation in both the House and the senate. I make my living by using my knowledge and experience to responsibly use ground water resources- I have a vested interest in protecting these resources because it is critical to my economic well-being. As proposed, these regulations would stifle economic development. Water is the one resource unique to this region and the responsible use of it is one of Michigan's advantages as it tries to recover from its economic woes.

Any legislation the regulates water use should:

- Preserve ground water as an existing personal property right. The language that shifts access to water toward a public trust doctrine should be rejected.
- Legislation needs specific exemptions for private, non-commercial water use.
- The Great Lakes Compact should be passed without it being coupled with other legislation related to management of ground water resources.
- The Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool should be viewed as a very broad assessment tool and should not be used as a strict regulatory standard. Its used as proposed in both the House and Senate bills is extremely flawed, and when tested by well drillers throughout the state was found to be inaccurate and unreliable when compared to known local conditions. Site specific conditions should prevail over any Assessment Tool determination.
- The Ground Water Conservation Advisory Council (GWCAC) should be re-formed with its previous members to continue to advise the MDEQ and other state agencies. The Governor and legislators on water policy. Sound water use and conservation policies that protect both economic development and Michigan's water resources and water dependent natural resources should not be left to partisan politics.

As Written, this legislation threatens the basic principles of property rights and negatively impacts my livelihood

Thank you,

Phillip Layman
BW Layman and Sons

