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3/21/07

Testimony Against HB 383

My name is Beth Kaeding, and I live in Bozeman. I am a member of Northern Plains Resource Council. We support coal bed methane (CBM) development when it is done right. HB 383 is NOT about doing CBM development right - it's about doing it wrong.

CBM wastewater is considered a pollutant under the federal Clean Water Act because it is highly saline & sodic. Montana's Board of Environmental Review approved standards for this CBM wastewater that have since been approved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. HB 383 would impound this water in locations that would readily allow this water to seep back into Montana's surface waters, which would be illegal under the law.

Additionally, under the Clean Water Act, placing wastewater impoundments in ephemeral streams & drainages is illegal.

Northern Plains is not against ranchers using CBM wastewater beneficially, but this bill is about discharging tremendous quantities of highly saline CBM wastewater into impoundments The CBM industry is trying to discharge

it's wastewater - not help ranchers. The amount of water to be discharged is more water than all the ranchers in the State of Montana could ever use. This bill is simply a waste of Montana's precious water resources.

Please vote against HB 383

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