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From: Susan Yates [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 3, 2021 11:30 PM
To: Peter Luckham; Doug Fenton
Subject: Letter to Driftwood

Dear Editor,

I am distressed at reading Saturna Trustee Paul Brent's *In Depth* opinion piece in last week's Driftwood. He prefaces his writing with a comment about about "graphic and disturbing content", and then says that it's a "strange and provocative title".

It sure is, but I'd liken his opinion piece more to incendiary misinformation meant to disrupt a process that has been very carefully and comprehensively wrought for almost 2 years. I have been participating in, and reporting on (for the Gabriola Sounder) the Islands Trust Policy project regularly during the past 22 months. In fact my first opportunity for input was at the Salt Spring fall fair in 2019.

Like every person in the Islands Trust Area, I have had many opportunities to comment on the Policy Statement process: in writing, by surveys, and in person (more recently via zoom) at Trust Council meetings. I've had lots to say about the process, sometimes agreeing and sometimes not, with the comprehensive and timely review that Trust Council is undertaking to update the Policy Statement. One thing for sure, this is not a process that has been rushed, or that in any way has ignored public input.

Trustee Brent says, "We are hearing concerns from residents about this draft policy statement, about the Trust's focus on diminishing the role of agriculture and taking control of all forestry and tree-cutting activities, banning private docks, and forcing OCP changes on islands." Not one of these so-called concerns is based on fact, and Trustee Brent must surely know this.

It is disingenuous, and mean-spirited of Trustee Brent to let his own constituents believe that the Policy Statement revisions are doing any of these things. It is also irresponsible of Trustee Brent to not inform his constituents about the ongoing process of the Policy Statement project whereby anyone can see all of the revisions to date, and comment on them at any time, to their own Local Trust Committee, or to Trust Council via the Executive members of Council.

I earnestly hope that Trustee Brent might change his tune and encourage his constituents to *read the Draft Policy Statement* so they can see for themselves the revisions which have been carefully and comprehensively updated to include essential references to affordable housing, climate change, and First Nations Reconciliation.

Sincerely,
Susan Yates
Gabriola Island