

**From:** elissa poole [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 2, 2022 2:03 PM  
**To:** Islands2050  
**Subject:** reasons for being

Dear Islands Trust folk:

I'm writing on behalf of myself and my family to make our plea for protecting the natural environment of the Gulf Islands, and preserving the islands' rural character. We consider this a priority, as was clearly intended by those who originally established the Trust. They were far-seeing, but of course did not predict, way back then, the climate crisis, the pandemic and its impact on land prices, the huge influx of population and money to the islands and the resulting shortage of housing for the average family. Nonetheless, they did imagine the threats posed by development and they certainly did not intend for the word "environment" to be expanded to include people - they meant the natural environment and would not have foreseen the attempt to include housing, economic development, and other human pursuits in general under that rubric. That's not to say that we don't have to deal with those issues, too - but **NEVER AT THE EXPENSE OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND OUR ISLANDS' RURAL CHARACTER — THESE TAKE PRECEDENT.**

Zoning is also a huge concern of ours: We request that the ecosystem have priority and that no further zoning be permitted where strong, healthy forests (and that includes second growth), natural ecosystems and fresh water sources would be negatively affected.

We request that directive statements in the Trust Policy Statement **MUST BE REQUIRED** with no *opt-out* policies in another document.

Signed,  
Elissa Poole  
Tim Pickstone  
Geoffrey McFarlane  
[REDACTED]  
Salt Spring Island  
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