

From: Frances Rautenbach [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 3:12 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Trust Policy Statement updates

I am writing to express that I am strongly concerned about a few of the Trust Policy Statement updates.

I can only support this draft with the following amendments:

- I cannot accept the approval of exceptions to mandatory policies on the basis of “adequate justification”. Being “mandatory” is compulsory - which both Islanders and the Executive Committee need to understand clearly as a strict, authoritative requirement that must be followed.

“Adequate justification” is a variable opinion, and weak policy wording.

- Formally recognizing and respecting growth limits is essential to protecting the environment and rural character of the islands trust area. This should be mandatory. Set a firm limit on growth. The phrase “managing development” implies that developers and the Executive Committee could provide “adequate justification” for permitting and proceeding with over-development.

- The word “environment” is used throughout the document, and needs to be clearly defined as meaning the natural environment, which the Trust exists to preserve and protect.

I need the precise meaning of the word "environment" to be made very clear, to the human inhabitants of these islands, and to the Executive Committee.

I can only 'strongly agree' that this draft Islands Trust Policy will be effective - into the future - if the Islands Trust retains the original intention of the meaning of the word “environment”.

I very strongly disagree, if the meaning is to be re-interpreted as being “the circumstances, objects, or conditions by which human beings are surrounded : the factors and influences that affect the growth, health, progress, functioning, etc., of someone or something.”

I can “agree strongly” only if we are aiming to preserve and protect not the Gulf Islanders of this region, but the natural region itself, the Gulf Islands. We need to be protecting the Gulf Islands habitat from the negative effects of human Gulf Islanders - to the benefit of the Gulf Islanders.

For me to strongly agree, the ‘natural environment’ must be defined to mean, in this document, something more like “all living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) things that exist naturally, without artificial human creation, encompassing Earth's air, water, soil, plants, animals, and their complex interactions, forming ecosystems that provide essential resources and support life, contrasting with the "built environment". It includes large-scale elements like climate and oceans, as well as specific habitats like forests, rivers, and mountains, and the processes (like nutrient cycles) that sustain them.”

Yours respectfully,
Usha Frances Rautenbach
