

Dear Local Trust Committee members,

Please consider this letter as an expression of my wholehearted support for the current rezoning proposal presented by Crystal Mountain Society. I sincerely hope that Trustees and Staff will be able to complete the final stage for this careful proposal without delay.

The society has been a quietly contributing part of the pattern of our island life for decades. In conducting retreats in a natural setting, CMS has historically demonstrated an on-the-ground respect for the character and values of the larger Galiano community. It seems obvious to me that honoring the environmental values of the Trust and the community has always been consistent with the central functions of the society – sharing with the participants of retreat activities an experience of deep connection with the natural environment, something so important to the lives and choices of those of us lucky enough to be permanent residents of Galiano.

The efforts by the society to conduct studies by licensed professionals with regard to ecosystem management, water use and sewage treatment gives me confidence that any zoning will be based on scientific principles. The proposed title transfer, giving 75% of the society's land to the Islands Trust Conservancy, can only be appreciated as a benefit to the island and a small but important contribution to the future of our warming planet. By stating a willingness to continue to protect 60% of the forest even within their own development area, this proposal also demonstrates an impressive model for future rezoning commitments by the Trust.

I know that the Islands Trust has long been dedicated to careful stewardship of our beautiful island, and I appreciate that you, as current members with the responsibility for this decision, have worked hard on this special proposal as part of your mandate. I have confidence that you will find a way to support the need for this new non-residential zoning in terms that will continue to protect the overall values of the Trust. Thank you for all your work, and for keeping our island home safe, while continuing to honor our cultural diversity and reflect our changing times.

Yours very truly

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Linde Zingaro PhD 