

From: **Barbara Fitzgerald** [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, May 2, 2022 at 9:50 AM
Subject: Crystal Mountain
To: <trockafella@islandstrust.bc.ca>, <drogers@islandstrust.bc.ca>, <jwolverton@islandstrust.bc.ca>

Dear Dan, Jane and Tahirih,

Thanks for taking the time to read this and thanks for all that you do for Galiano. I have watched the Crystal Mountain proposal progress and have done a lot of thinking about it. I am friends with some of the key Crystal Mountain people and have talked this through with them. I keep coming back to the day last summer when the CRD sent out a missive saying that I couldn't water my vegetables any longer, except by hand. That was how critical the water shortage was. The same day, council met to propose going forward with the Crystal Mountain resort development proposal. The irony of that was staggering! I can't water my vegetables but we have enough water to bring tourists (with no regard for their carbon footprint) flying in from Australia and Europe to stay on Galiano and use water. With numbers up over 100 proposed for special days!

I understand that there is a chance that we have lots of water to accommodate this development but we may find out afterwards that we didn't. We will be left without water so that Crystal Mountain can bring tourists from around the world??

This is not NIMBYism. If what was being proposed had community benefit, for example, non-profit housing for single parent families, we would have to think about whether the very real benefits to our whole community of a development like that outweighed the potential for not having enough water. Those neighbours would be like-minded residents who would be aware and also appropriately concerned about water usage. Tourists don't tend to think like that. Why would we risk our water supply to accommodate people with no connection to the broader Galiano community to fly here on vacation to land that was never zoned for that? (Why in this day and age are people actually flying halfway around the world to do something that could be accessed locally or virtually is another question?).

I don't see any community benefit to this proposal. Crystal Mountain is the only entity that benefits from this endeavour and they should be asking for a commercial/resort rezoning so that the proposal can be considered in its true light. Other forest property owners are offering 75% of their land with real community benefit in exchange for residential zoning and their proposals seem to be languishing, even when support for them would open up the gate into Dionisio- something almost everyone would agree is a true community benefit. Crystal Mountain has said that they offer mental health services as a community benefit; there are many options to access for-profit mental health and well-being supports. Thankfully we have a publicly funded health care system for that. Offering a service that requires payment/tuition is not a community benefit any more than the gas station supplying us with gas is a community benefit; at least they are honest enough to say that it is a commercial enterprise.

I signed a petition along with almost every neighbour who stands to be directly affected by this proposal. How can the voices of the majority of neighbours be ignored? We are the ones whose wells will be affected. Crystal Mountain has operated in contravention of the law for a long time; there is no reason to believe that they will follow it this time. You are in receipt of a letter signed

by 51 people who will be directly affected by this development. In all honesty, you cannot provide complete reassurance that our water will not be affected.

Please listen to the voices of the people who stand to lose a lot from this resort going through; that is your duty as elected officials. There is no arguing that Galiano (and all the gulf islands) have a critical water shortage. Let's be good stewards of the land and think more carefully about using this precious resource to support our community.

Yours sincerely,
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