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Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:20 PM
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Cc: Deb Morrison <dmorrison@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Aaron Campbell <acampbell@islandstrust.bc.ca>; David Maude <dmaude@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: House Size bylaw

Support of By law [122 I think] re house size

Dear North Pender Trustees and Chair,

I am a long-time resident of Pender Island, and I am supportive of bylaw 122 to reduce house size which aims to preserve the rural character of the Islands and the intact ecosystems & biodiversity upon which we all depend.

There are several reasons why this bylaw should be ratified. These include:

- The Islands Trust endorsement of the Right to Healthy Environment (2015).
- The declaration of a climate emergency (2019)
- The overarching mandate to ‘Preserve and Protect’ islands within the Trust Area.

Despite the 2015 and 2019 declarations, few measurable actions have been taken by the Trust to address the ecological footprint that residents and visitors have on these islands.

As the recent study of residents’ Ecological Footprint on Galiano Island has shown [See: <https://galianoconservancy.ca/oneisland/>] it is housing and its construction and maintenance which contributes about 20% of the footprint. Only transportation and food make bigger contributions. The larger the dwellings the larger the footprint. For example, larger homes tend to have:

- greater loss of natural habitats
- larger parking areas
- more impervious surfaces
- more extensive septic systems

In contrast, smaller homes are easier to meld within the natural landscape, thereby requiring less disturbance and less reconstruction. It's a no-brainer that we need to build smaller dwellings. We must decrease our outsized footprints on the one and only planet we have!

Lisa Baile
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Pender Island