

**From:** Jennifer Burns <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 4, 2021 9:13 PM  
**To:** Lori Foster; Islands2050  
**Subject:** Support for the Islands Trust Policy Statement Bylaw No. 183

Dear Islands Trust Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of the Islands Trust Council proposed Bylaw No. 183 "Islands Trust Policy Statement Bylaw, 2021". As a resident of Bowen Island, I am increasingly concerned by the pressures placed upon our fragile ecosystems from development, agriculture, and tourism. The proposed Islands Trust Policy Statement Bylaw amendment seeks to preserve and protect the extremely sensitive habitats of our islands through an appropriate framework that can be applied to each islands unique governance model.

Our Islands are under increasing threat from the encroachment of residential, commercial, and agricultural development. We need this overarching mandate, free from commercial interest, to protect and preserve our islands' vulnerable ecosystems. As a concerned resident of Bowen Island, I believe the policies proposed in this Bylaw are appropriate and desirable in the context of the current climate emergency, and the imperative to take such measures can only be strengthened by the unprecedented events of the last week, clearly demonstrating our future if we do not take urgent action. Specifically, having read the policy statements for each area, I see many of the current issues that we are grappling with on Bowen Island – appropriateness of private docks, the impact of commercial agriculture on groundwater, protection of our forests from clearcutting, and ensuring that land use planning prioritizes environmental protection over commercial or landowner interests. It is clear we need a strong and clear policy to achieve the necessary changes.

I welcome these policies in hopes that they will guide local decision making in prioritizing the environment and protecting our natural systems from the threats posed by climate change, development, and population expansion. While commercial interests will not look favorably on many of the policy statements due to potential economic impact, I urge the council not to water down or weaken this policy. Balancing environmental and economic interests has not proved to be successful in preventing our current climate emergency. It is time to make the changes necessary to ensure our islands are preserved for the generations that follow.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Burns

Bowen Island, BC