

**From:** John Bowers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2024 5:21 PM  
**To:** Islands2050  
**Subject:** changes to the Islands Trust policy statement

Dear Islands Trust,

There's a wise old saying, whose acronym is KISS. Keep It Simple Stupid. There is great value in keeping statements concise, clear and simple enough for citizens to easily and quickly understand. I believe the existing policy statement is a couple of pages. And I think the proposed new policy statement is something closer to 40 pages, more or less. This is the exact opposite of the KISS philosophy.

Sometimes those who work in the business of change tend to go overboard, because it's the nature of their work. I fear that is what has happened here and we might have gone so far down the path, it will be difficult or impossible to unwind. I imagine it would take an entirely new Board of Trustees to undo the mess, in my humble opinion, the proposed draft policy statement has become.

Nevertheless, I do want to impress upon you the value of simplicity. Leave any crucial details to Appendices at most. Keeping the policy statement to a couple of pages has so much value and this idea seems to have eluded those in charge of this re-write project. I'm not opposed to the re-write in general, though the market forces impacting climate change, reconciliation and most other aspects have about 1,000:1 effect versus the policy changes that result from this re-write. That is the changes will have only the most marginally tiny impacts in relation to market forces imposed on us all by national policies and global forces. While the Islands Trust is trying to win the battle, the war is being fought on a much bigger scale. This isn't to say do nothing, but rather to be smart about where resources are allocated. Too much money has gone into this re-write and it unfortunately is actually going to make the problems worse in my opinion, mostly because of the added complexity and cost to younger generations hoping to live, work, build and enjoy the islands. If the Trust wants affordable housing while respecting the ecosystems, just follow best practices of regions that are doing this well, rather than trying to reinvent the wheel, with a 40+ page manual to describe this new and improved climate friendly, reconciled, unaffordable, but we'll pretend it's more affordable, wheel.

Frustratingly,

JB

resident of the islands living a sustainable life