

From: Erin Ewing [REDACTED]

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Cc: 3ravenscoop@gmail.com

Subject: Support for 3Ravens

Dear Denman Island Planners and Trustees,

I am writing in support of the 3Ravens affordable housing application. Having reviewed their application materials, I am deeply impressed at the thought and care that has been put into this project with regard to environmental protections, community vibrancy, and a radically affordable approach to stable housing.

As a very grateful and satisfied CoHo member, and as a disabled former social worker who has both worked in supportive housing and experienced economically-induced homelessness myself, this topic is very close to my heart. I have witnessed time and again, and experienced firsthand, the way that housing instability tears people and communities apart and causes myriad health impacts, and the way that safe stable housing provides the essential foundation for healthy and thriving individuals and communities.

The line in 3Ravens' application about seeking members who "Want to live simply, securely, and rooted in place" really struck me. Stable housing allows people to develop deeper connection to land and community, motivating long-term investment in caring for place and people, and cultivating the wisdom over time of *how* to care well for these.

As a community, Denman needs to think about who we want to be, and what we want for our shared social fabric. Do we want our children to learn without disruption and to be connected to a network of trusted adults, or do we want children who have to change schools mid-year, sleep on couches, and have no one but one or two super stressed parents to be there for them? Do we want our elders to be safely housed with established supports and neighbours who check in on them, or do we want elders living in inadequate structures and having to move frequently? Do we want our adults to be healthy, happy, able to work consistently at the same employment, and with energy to support others and add to the community's vibrancy? Or do we want stressed, burnt out, overwhelmed adults who have to keep starting over from square one in a new place, and whose nervous systems are scraped raw from the constant threat of displacement?

We know that small-scale non-profit community housing projects can work. CoHo is a living testament to this fact. 3Ravens has learned a lot from CoHo, and is well positioned to build on CoHo's successes and even improve on what has been learned along the way.

3Ravens' affordability formulas are truly groundbreaking, and can make the dream of home ownership financially achievable in a way that is unprecedented in the last two generations. The plans around energy efficiency, rainwater catchment, composting toilets, density clustering, not disrupting any environmentally sensitive areas, and preserving the majority of the land for nature provide a model of ecologically sustainable living.

My vision for Denman is NOT that of stressed, overwhelmed low-income people who are bouncing from one place to another and constantly struggling in survival mode, with an ever-widening disparity between them and the wealthy NIMBYers who use their privilege to purchase security but deny that security to everyone else. My vision of Denman is that of Meal Trains for families with new babies, Earth Day beach cleanup crews. Farm to Family dinners, school plays and Blackberry Fair zucchini races - initiatives that require caring, invested community members with energy to share. Supporting 3Ravens is a big step toward that caring and investment, toward long-term vibrancy and sustainability.

Thank you.

Erin Ewing

CoHo Landing

Tay'stay'ic / Denman Island