

From: Jessica Harkema <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 9:23 AM

To: ssiinfo <ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca>

Cc: Peter Grove <pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Laura Patrick <lpatrick@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Peter Luckham <pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca>

Subject: Support for Housing Working Group

Dear Chair Luckham, Trustee Grove and Trustee Patrick,

First off, thank you for taking the time to read this email regarding housing needs in our community. I write to you today as someone who [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. I, like so many others, are faced with the prospect of leaving the island due to improper and lack of housing options. I urge you to make housing a priority and support the Housing Working Group proposal. I fear that without proper housing for all, we will continue to see a decline in our community's health - socially, ecologically, and economically.

As someone who values the natural environment and the protected area we live in, as well as the social and economic fabric of our community, I feel that the housing working group proposal is a very cautious and considerate way forward. It will provide a framework for making decisions on better housing options by planning for the future instead of reacting to the past while emphasizing housing as a tool for climate change mitigation and ecosystem protection. As someone who wishes to spend the next [REDACTED] years on Salt Spring Island and in the community that raised me, I hope that as Trustees you seek ways to connect with younger working people on the island to see what their hopes are for the future of Salt Spring Island. After all, we are the ones who will be living with the results of the decisions of today for decades to come, or so I would hope.

I ask you to be bold. I ask that you take a stand and show true leadership in our community. Make decisions for a better future to ensure that generations to come can remain on Salt Spring Island. I ask that you use all your tools in your toolbox to push Salt Spring to become a leader in creating groundbreaking solutions to housing the residents that our community requires including police, health care workers, grocery store employees, ferry workers and many others that improve our quality of life, while protecting our ecosystems and environment. I ask you to think about the legacy you will leave behind from your time as a Trustee and what that will mean to the future of our community.

Please make housing a top priority and address the crisis our community has been enduring for almost two decades

Once again, thank you for your time and efforts so far towards housing. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to discuss this further with me.

Best regards,

Jessica Harkema