

**From:** Tine Rossing <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 9:44 AM

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**Subject:** Expression of strong support for the SSI Local Housing Policy Initiative

Dear trustees,

I am writing to express my strong support for a local housing policy initiative that will be on the agenda for the Local Trust Committee's meeting tomorrow October 6<sup>th</sup>. I urge you to give this initiative your full and favourable consideration, as it presents a very visionary way to address some of the most urgent, important and interconnected challenges that our island home is currently facing. The time is now to do that.

More specifically, our island community is currently faced not only with an increasing climate and forest/ecosystem/land use emergency. A decades-old housing crisis is also reaching a level where urgent and proactive action needs to be taken if our island community is to remain vibrant, thriving and resilient.

However, while climate change and our forests and ecosystems are currently priority issues for the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee, housing is not, which is very concerning. Without sustainable housing for *all* income groups on this island, I fear that our island will wilt. It is a fact that so many of our essential workers – including people working in the service and health industries, along with farm workers – have the hardest time finding long-term, stable, affordable housing. Moreover, many young families or lower-income families struggle to find accommodation. We are also faced with a lack of safe accommodation for a dramatic increase in transient people, resulting in our public outdoor spaces being taken over by these people, causing serious safety and health issues for our entire community.

The thing is - housing, climate and ecosystems are not separate issues, but increasing challenges that are intricately connected. Basically, humans need three fundamental elements to thrive: Food, water and shelter. It is therefore imperative that ecosystems and housing are addressed in a holistic, forward-looking manner, while applying a climate lens to factor in the increasing and volatile uncertainties that climate change presents.

The proposed Housing Project presents a creative and integrative approach for how to tackle these three massive, inter-connected challenges all at once in a way that will maximize the benefits and minimize the harms of housing on Salt Spring. More specifically, it provides a creative way to examine and subsequently identify the best ways for how to simultaneously address the ecological, climatic, and socio-economic dimensions of island accommodation grounded in an all-important forward-looking Visioning exercise. I have worked in the environmental and climate change space for the past 25 years, focusing on how to apply ecosystem-based management approaches to societal challenges. You simply cannot separate socioeconomic and environmental issues as they are completely inter-related and as such must be considered simultaneously.

I very much look forward to learning the outcome of tomorrow's meeting and trust that you will carefully consider this proposal as a viable option for how to make our island community a vibrant, sustainable and climate-resilient home for all of us.

Sincerely,  
Tine Rossing

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**Tine Rossing**

