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**From:** Neal Hicks <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2026 11:18 AM  
**To:** Laura Patrick <[lpattick@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:lpattick@islandstrust.bc.ca)>; Jamie Harris <[jharris@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:jharris@islandstrust.bc.ca)>; Timothy Peterson <[tpeterson@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:tpeterson@islandstrust.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Executive Admin <[execadmin@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:execadmin@islandstrust.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Keeping “preserve and protect” at the heart of Islands Trust decisions

Dear Chair Patrick and Members of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee,

I’m a Salt Spring Island resident and father of two young daughters, and I’m writing because I am deeply concerned about the direction of the proposed Trust Policy Statement and our local OCP/LUB reviews.

My ask is simple and specific: **please keep the original “preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment” mandate at the centre of every major policy and planning decision, and do not support any TPS or OCP changes that weaken that ecological focus.**

From a resident’s perspective, it feels as though:

- The interpretation of “unique amenities” is being stretched to include general housing, livelihoods, infrastructure and tourism - things that are not unique to these islands and risk turning the Trust into a conventional growth-management body.
- Environmental protection and ecosystem integrity are increasingly treated as just one value to be balanced, rather than the first duty across the Trust Area as a whole.
- Significant OCP and zoning changes are being advanced while the TPS itself is still in flux, which is hard to reconcile with the idea of a clear, trusted framework guiding local decisions.

I fully acknowledge the real housing pressures here. My family feels them too. But the Islands Trust was created precisely because these islands cannot be treated like every other place in BC. Once forests are cleared, once watersheds are overdrawn, there is no way to “undo” those choices for our children.

I respectfully ask that you:

1. **Publicly affirm that “preserve and protect” remains your first obligation as trustees, with housing and community needs addressed within ecological limits, not in competition with them.**
2. **Decline to support any TPS or OCP/LUB changes that rely on an over-broad reading of “unique amenities” or that dilute the Trust’s conservation-led purpose.**
3. **Ensure that any major shifts in policy are grounded in clear, transparent engagement that honestly reflects islanders’ long-standing priority: protection of nature, water, and rural character.**

My wife and I chose to raise our daughters here because of the promise that these islands would be preserved and protected. I’m asking you, as our trustees, to keep that promise at the core of your work.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Neal Hicks  
Salt Spring Island, BC