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August 29, 2023

Trustees,

We are very happy that the vision statement of the community where we have chosen to live is “*to preserve the rural nature and natural diversity of our island environment for future generations.*” In fact, it is one of the reasons we moved here three years ago.

Since then, we have been very sorry to note the divisiveness within the community regarding Bylaw 122. We feel that, while not being perfect, Bylaw 122 supports the vision statement. We fail to understand what the problems with the bylaw are, and ask that the Trustees present us with a clear and concise explanation of the problems they perceive. Most of the arguments against the bylaw that we have heard were addressed when it was developed by the former trustees, based on input from community members at the many meetings that were held. A similar consultation process is necessary if the Bylaw is to be re-examined, and this feels like a questionable use of time.

We feel there are many issues far more pressing than Bylaw 122 that we would prefer the Trustees to focus on. Some were listed in the Community Information Meeting notes, and we would like to highlight the following:

- Groundwater studies
- Establishing a Coastal Douglas Fir Development Permit Area
- Reviewing and Expanding the DPAs - sensitive ecosystems or raptor nests
- Reconciliation with the Tsawout and other indigenous groups

As well, we feel emergency preparedness should be a high priority. Not only could an earthquake isolate South Pender, so too could a climate event.

- Emergency evacuation - what is our plan if the bridge should collapse? Should we be lobbying the provincial government for a South Pender dock/landing that could accommodate a barge or ferry?
- Wildfire prevention - ensuring that South Pender is as safe from wildfire as possible, for example by implementing recommendations of the [BC Firestorm Report](#).

If these latter two are not within the purview of Islands Trust, then we hope trustees or staff will inform the community of plans for both.

We also want to thank both trustees and staff for their hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,

A thick black horizontal bar used to redact the signature of the sender.