



Making a difference...together

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March 14, 2019

File: 0400-20

The Honourable John Horgan
M.L.A. Langford-Juan de Fuca
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E1
Via email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier:

RE: PROTECTION OF SOOKE HILLS WILDERNESS REGIONAL PARK

I am writing on behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board further to a March 13, 2019 Resolution to advise the Provincial government that the CRD Board has no interest in pursuing new highway infrastructure development open to the public in the Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park.

Since the Provincial government announced plans to explore construction of an alternate highway route to the Trans-Canada Highway within or in the vicinity of the Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park there has been significant public interest from residents of the region.

On February 26, 2019 I wrote to the Honourable Claire Trevena conveying the CRD's interest in actively participating in the development of the South Island Transportation Strategy and we remain committed participating and sharing transportation data/reports and staff expertise. We also continue to support staff participation on the Malahat Emergency Detour Route Planning Working Group.

It is a CRD Board priority to work with government and community partners to plan for and deliver an effective, long-term multi-modal transportation system and to increase use of public transit, walking and cycling for the region. As you may know we undertook significant public and stakeholder engagement with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in the development of the CRD Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) which was approved in 2014. The RTP continues to provide a very strong base from which to frame the new South Island Transportation Strategy.

I request a meeting with you to stress the urgency of the need to protect the Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park for residents and the CRD Board. I am hopeful that we can coordinate a meeting in the near future. Please contact Carolyn Jenkinson, Manager, Executive Services at cjenkinson@crd.bc.ca to arrange a suitable date.

Sincerely,



Colin Plant
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure
Honourable Scott Fraser, MLA Mid Island-Pacific Rim
Honourable Lana Popham, MLA Saanich South
Honourable Carole James, MLA Victoria-Beacon Hill
Honourable Rob Fleming, MLA Victoria-Swan Lake
Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA Courtenay-Comox
Sonia Furstenau, MLA Cowichan Valley
Mitzi Dean, MLA Esquimalt-Metchosin
Sheila Malcolmson, MLA Nanaimo
Doug Routley, MLA Nanaimo-North Cowichan
Dr. Andrew Weaver, MLA Oak Bay-Gordon Head
Michelle Stilwell, MLA Parksville-Qualicum
Adam Olsen, MLA Saanich North and the Islands
CRD Board
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD