

From: Johns, Gord - M.P. <Gord.Johns@parl.gc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2023 7:36 AM
To: Carolyn Jenkinson <cjenkinson@crd.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Vancouver Island Rail Corridor

Carolyn,

Thank you for copying Mr. Johns, M.P. (Courtenay-Alberni) on letters from the Board Chairs of the Capital, Cowichan Valley, Alberni Clayoquot and Comox Valley Regional Districts to Ministers Miller and Alghabra regarding the Vancouver Island Rail Corridor.

There certainly is significant public support for the restoration of rail service on the Vancouver Island.

Regrettably, the Liberal government has failed to conduct the necessary consultation with local governments and First Nations and is now faced with a B.C. Court of Appeal-imposed deadline of March 14, 2023 to declare its interests. This deadline is in response to a lawsuit by Snaw-Naw-As First Nation which says land was taken from them in 1912 and is now no longer being used for the intended purpose of railway service. If the federal government fails to respond by the deadline, the court will allow the Nation to revive its suit. As a result, the future of the corridor now rests largely in the hands of the Liberal government.

As you know, passenger service on the line ended in 2011 and in the intervening years the line has greatly deteriorated. The Island Corridor Foundation (ICF) which owns the former rail line estimates the cost of restoring service will be about \$431 million. A multi-jurisdictional partnership including federal and provincial governments will most likely be required in its future development.

MP Johns met with the Minister of Transportation, the Hon. Omar Alghabra, on this matter on February 15, 2023, and urged him to act. He emphasized the potential of this invaluable asset for much needed passenger service and a safe and environmentally sound freight rail, along with the creation of trails, parks, gardens, greenways, and other public areas for use of members of the public along the length of the Corridor. He pointed out that a flexible infrastructure along this Corridor could include major economic and social benefits for adjacent communities and urged him to conclude respectful consultations with local First Nations and municipal governments.

MP Johns is committed to continuing his push for the government to make its intentions clear, take the appropriate steps to consult and bring provincial, local and First Nations governments together so that the potential of the rail corridor can be realized.

Regards,

Corinne

Corinne Webber
Parliamentary Assistant | Adjoint parlementaire
Gord Johns | Bureau de Gord Johns
MP for Courtenay-Alberni | Député de Courtenay-Alberni

From: Carolyn Jenkinson <cjenkinson@crd.bc.ca>

Sent: February 17, 2023 3:31 PM

To: Miller, Marc - Député <Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca>

Cc: tc.ministeroftransport-ministredestransports.tc@tc.gc.ca; CRDBoard <crdboard@crd.bc.ca>; amanda.ferguson@cprd.bc.ca; chairperson@cprd.bc.ca; administration@acrd.bc.ca; jjack@acrd.bc.ca; Teresa Warnes <twarnes@comoxvalleyrd.ca>; Jesse Ketler <councillor.ketler@cumberland.ca>; CRD Chair <crdchair@crd.bc.ca>; inquiries@rdn.bc.ca; Adam Olsen <adam.olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Adam Walker <adam.walker.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Doug Routley <douglas.routley.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Grace Lore <grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; John Horgan <john.horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Josie Osborne <josie.osborne.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Lana Popham <lane.popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Michele Babchuk <michele.babchuk.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Mitzi Dean <mitzi.dean.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Murray Rankin <murray.rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Rob Fleming <rob.fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Ronna-Rae Leonard <ronna-rae.leonard.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Sheila Malcolmson <sheila.malcolmson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Sonia Furstenau <sonia.furstenau.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; MacGregor, Alistair - M.P. <Alistair.MacGregor@parl.gc.ca>; May, Elizabeth - M.P. <Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca>; Johns, Gord - M.P. <Gord.Johns@parl.gc.ca>; Collins, Laurel - M.P. <Laurel.Collins@parl.gc.ca>; Barron, Lisa Marie - M.P. <lisamarie.barron@parl.gc.ca>; Blaney, Rachel - M.P. <Rachel.Blaney@parl.gc.ca>; Garrison, Randall - M.P. <Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca>

Subject: Vancouver Island Rail Corridor

Dear Minister Miller,

Please find attached a letter from the Board Chairs of the Capital, Cowichan Valley, Alberni Clayoquot and Comox Valley Regional Districts regarding the Vancouver Island Rail Corridor.

Many thanks,

Carolyn Jenkinson (she/her/hers) | Manager, Executive Administration
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