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June 21, 2016

File No.: 410-20

Via email: pm@pm.gc.ca

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Commercial shipping anchorages

I am writing as the Chair of the Islands Trust Council to express the Islands Trust Council's opposition to the proposal to establish new commercial shipping anchorages off the northeast coast of Gabriola Island in British Columbia and to ask for a moratorium on any new commercial shipping anchorages within the Islands Trust Area until Transport Canada has:

- a) assessed the cumulative risk and impacts associated with projected vessel traffic increases in the Salish Sea,
- b) developed a 20-year mitigation plan that includes measures to minimize anchorage use, and
- c) implemented a process for comprehensive environmental, social and economic impact assessment prior to the establishment of any new anchorages.

Transport Canada has been working with industry stakeholders on an anchorage optimization exercise for the Southern Gulf Islands. There has been no community involvement in this process and we do not believe there has been sufficient focus on solving the supply-chain problems that result in vessels going to anchor.

The Salish Sea is one of the most biologically rich inland seas in the world and the rural islands of the Salish Sea offer world-renowned tourism opportunities. We need federal government leadership that respects the special values at risk in this region by considering the cumulative impacts to our natural and human communities from increasing vessel traffic and anchoring.



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The Islands Trust Council is a federation of local government bodies representing 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property-owners. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5200 square kilometres. The Islands Trust Council has been concerned with oil spill and oil tanker issues since 1979.

Thank you for considering this request. We cherish this place and govern it in trust for all British Columbians.

Sincerely,



Peter Luckham
Chair, Islands Trust Council
pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

cc: Minister Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Transport
Islands Trust Area MPs
Islands Trust Area First Nations
BC Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Regional District of Nanaimo
Robert Lewis-Manning, President, Chamber of Shipping of BC
Robin Silvester, President and Chief Executive Officer, Port of Vancouver
Bernie Dumas President and Chief Executive Officer, Nanaimo Port Authority
Kevin Obermeyer, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Pilotage Authority
Dr. Richard Wiefelspuett, Executive Director, Clear Seas
San Juan County Council
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust website