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November 18, 2016

File Number: 0440-20

Via Email: fixedlink@lucentquay.ca

Janice Keyes
Community Consultation Coordinator
Sunshine Coast Fixed Link Study Team

Dear Janice Keyes:

Re: Sunshine Coast Fixed Link Feasibility Study

I am writing in response to the consultation on the Sunshine Coast Fixed Link Feasibility Study and thank you for the courtesy of the extension to provide feedback on behalf of Islands Trust Council.

The Islands Trust has a clear legislative provincial mandate: to preserve and protect the ecologically-significant and fragile island archipelago between Vancouver Island and the Vancouver Mainland on behalf of islanders and of all British Columbians.

The Province has approved the Islands Trust Policy Statement and numerous official community plans from individual islands, all developed through extensive consultation with islanders, non-resident property owners and visitors. All of these documents oppose fixed connections between these islands to Vancouver Island, the Mainland or another island. The Policy Statement policy 5.3.2 clearly states:

"It is Trust Council's policy that no island in the Trust Area should be connected to Vancouver Island, the mainland or another island by a bridge or tunnel, notwithstanding the existing bridge between North and South Pender Islands."

Fundamentally, islanders and non-islanders alike recognize that such connections destroy the very essence of islands; something that, once lost, can never be restored.

Islands Trust also has a strong desire and vision for enduring relationships with First Nations. As part of that commitment, we copy First Nations on all correspondence, such as this. While we have not directly heard the positions of affected First Nations on the Sunshine Coast Fixed Link Feasibility Study, given our commitment to establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship with First Nations, we offer the Islands Trust position while being ready to respectfully consider their positions, as they become known.

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Islands Trust Council is concerned about the long-term and irreversible effects of fixed links to the environmental, social and cultural foundation of the island communities in the Trust Area that the Province created Islands Trust to preserve and protect. We strongly encourage the Sunshine Coast Fixed Link Feasibility Study team to carefully consider and reflect the effects of any fixed link option on these island communities in its final report.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



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

pc: Nicholas Simons, MLA, Powell River – Sunshine Coast
Gambier Island Local Trust Committee
Bowen Island Municipality
Sunshine Coast Regional District
Cowichan Tribes
Halalt First Nation
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group
Lake Cowichan First Nation
Lyackson First Nation
Musqueam Nation
Nanwakolas Council
Penelakut Tribe
Qualicum Indian Band
Seabird Island Band
Semiahmoo First Nation
Sechelt First Nation
Skawahlook First Nation
Sliammon First Nation
Soowahlie Indian Band
Squamish Nation
Sto:lo Tribal Council
Stz'uminus First Nation
Te'Mexw Treaty Association
Tsawwassen First Nation
Tsieil-Waututh Nation
We Wai Kum