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File Number: 6930-20 Docks

Via email: Lorraine.Gill@tc.gc.ca

Transport Canada, Pacific Region
Suite 620, 800 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2J8

Attention: Lorraine Gill
Regional Manager of Property Divestiture

Dear Ms. Gill,

Re: Ports Asset Transfer Program – False Bay Public Port Facility

I am writing to you as Chair of the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee, which is the local government with land use planning authority for Islands in the Salish Sea, including Lasqueti Island, and surrounding waters. As Transport Canada moves through the Ports Asset Transfer Program for False Bay Public Port Facility, the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee would like to alert Transport Canada to the essential service this facility provides to the community, and request that the facility remain in the control of a suitable public body.

This port facility is the only lifeline to and from the remote island of Lasqueti. The Island has a population of 426, according to the 2011 census, and covers an area of 6,645 hectares. The False Bay Public Port Facility is the only dock facility supporting public transportation to and from Lasqueti Island. The BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure provides a passenger only ferry service contracted through Western Pacific Marine and does not provide for vehicle traffic.

The port facility is essential to the transport of all residents, visitors, tradespeople, goods and services to and from Lasqueti Island, with exception of dangerous cargo and larger items that are transported by private barge to a barge ramp in the False Bay area. Goods include household groceries, farm supplies, building materials, business supplies, etc. Services include emergency transport via the ferry and Canadian Coast Guard off the island, and transportation of equipment and personnel for purposes of maintaining telecommunications and roads.

We understand that the Ports Asset Transfer Program provides an opportunity to have ports placed in the hands of local interests.

The *Islands Trust Act* empowers the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee to do land use planning only, and not to own or operate assets of any kind. In light of this and the policies from Section 1.3 of the *Lasqueti Island Official Community Plan* that guide intergovernmental and corporate matters for Lasqueti Island (see Attachment for an excerpt), the Local Trust Committee has reached out to the Powell River Regional District who has such authority. However, we have recently learned that the Regional District has policies in place to not pursue

ownership of port facilities at this time. This information has raised alarm bells for the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee and prompted this letter.

As the Chair of the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee, I respectfully request that in the forefront of all of your deliberations regarding the False Bay Port Facility, that you consider its essential role in meeting the basic transportation needs of the Lasqueti Island community, and ensure that the facility continues to be appropriately owned and operated as the community's lifeline.

The Islands Trust 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 and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5200 square kilometres.

Sincerely



Laura Busheikin,
Chair, Lasqueti Local Trust Committee

pc: Lasqueti Local Trust Committee
Al Radke, CAO, Powell River Regional District administration@powellriver.bc.ca

Attachment:

1. Excerpt from Lasqueti Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 77, 2005

Attachment 1
Excerpt from Lasqueti Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 77, 2005

1.3. Intergovernmental and Corporate Matters

Attainment of certain land use and development objectives set forth in this bylaw and the balance among them is influenced by the manner, in which the natural resources of Lasqueti Island and its surrounding islets and waters are managed, and the type and level of services provided by other government agencies and corporations.

Jurisdictional responsibility for resource management lies with agencies of the Provincial Government and certain Federal Ministries, not with the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee. Similarly, the regulation of matters such as sewage and garbage disposal, protection of water supplies, control of pollution, provision of highways, ferry service, and public utilities is not within the jurisdiction of the Local Trust Committee. However, their regulation or management can significantly influence achievement of this bylaw's land use and development objectives. Recognizing and accepting such circumstances, the Local Trust Committee presents objectives on these matters as expressions of its concerns and interests. The Committee will cooperate with and seek the assistance of the agencies with jurisdictional responsibilities in order to effect management and regulation which brings benefits to the Lasqueti Island community and the Province generally, while retaining the inherent capacity of the Island's resources.

Where agencies of other levels of government are themselves developing or regulating aspects of development in the Local Trust Area, it is the objective of the Local Trust Committee to liaise and cooperate with such agencies to encourage development or implement.