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December 16, 2025

File: 11-4700-20

Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Bills
c/o Parliamentary Committees Office
Room 224, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Submitted via consultation portal: <https://consultation-portal.leg.bc.ca/consultations/154>

Re: Request to Exclude the Islands Trust from Bill M216-2025

Dear Members of the Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Bills,

I am writing on behalf of the Islands Trust Council to respectfully convey opposition to Bill M216, and requests that if Bill M216 proceeds, that it be amended to explicitly exclude the Islands Trust due to its unique statutory mandate under the Islands Trust Act to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.

Applying Bill M216 without modification risks conflict with the Islands Trust Act and may inadvertently undermine the legislated preservation and protection mandate. Recent provincial initiatives with similar province-wide applicability have recognized this incompatibility and have therefore explicitly exempted the Islands Trust.

Like local governments, Islands Trust relies on professional submissions to support land-use decision-making; however, local review is often essential to identify deficiencies, clarify ambiguities, and ensure that reports reflect local conditions, risks, and public-interest considerations. The Provincial Ombudsperson has previously cautioned against professional reliance models without adequate oversight, reinforcing the importance of ensuring that any provincial framework aligns appropriately with the Islands Trust's mandate.

We also note concerns raised by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Planning Institute of British Columbia regarding the Bill's potential impacts on accountability and local decision-making processes. These issues further support the need for an explicit exemption for the Islands Trust.

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Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis

We always welcome early dialogue with the Province, or any private member considering a bill, to provide context about the potential implications on the advancement of Islands Trust's unique legislated mandate "to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, First Nations, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Patrick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laura Patrick

Chair, Islands Trust Council

lpatrick@islandstrust.bc.ca

cc: George Anderson, MLA for Nanaimo-Lantzville
Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Brittney Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities
MLAs in the Islands Trust Area
Bowen Island Municipality
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust website