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July 15, 2025

File No.: 11-5770-30-10

Via email: hma.minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
PO Box 9074
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Kahlon:

Re: North Salt Spring Waterworks District

I am writing on behalf of the Islands Trust Council to convey its support for the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's (NSSWD) request, as set it out in its May 16, 2025 letter to you, for the Province to empower the local trust committees or NSSWD with the regulatory tools necessary to ensure new water connections are allocated to where they are needed most in our community, and if possible, for BC Housing to immediately prioritize any potential new projects/partnerships within the Ganges area.

Our staff have not identified any additional existing powers that could be provided to local trust committees that would ensure that water connections are allocated where needed most in communities. However, they noted a potential solution may be possible through a change to NSSWD's letters patent.

We agree with NSSWD that this limited lifting of the moratorium on new connections on the Maxwell Lake side of the system is a rare and timely opportunity to address Salt Spring Island's urgent housing needs. With NSSWD or local trust committees having the authority to direct new connections to specific types of housing, it would greatly help in allocating connections where they are needed most.

Thank you for considering these requests.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Patrick
Chair, Islands Trust Council

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Attachment: May 16, 2025 letter from North Salt Spring Waterworks District to Minister of Housing
and Municipal Affairs

Ec: North Salt Spring Waterworks District Board
BC Housing
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust Council