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October 30, 2023

File No: 11-5770-30-10

Via e-mail: [FIN.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FIN.minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Katrine Conroy  
Minister of Housing  
Room 153 Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Conroy,

**Re: Speculation and Vacancy Tax**

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee passed the following resolution on October 12, 2023:

*“That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee request staff to send a letter from the LTC Chair to Honourable Katrine Conroy Minister of Finance and copy Honourable Ravi Kahlon Minister of Housing which references the September 7, 2023 letter from Colin Plant, CRD Board Chair to Minister Conroy, and requests the province to examine the projected effect of the Speculation and Vacancy Tax on the housing conditions on Salt Spring Island, before considering including the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area in the Speculation and Vacancy Tax taxable area.”*

We generally agree with the rationale provided in [Colin Plant, Capital Regional District Chair’s September 7, 2023 letter](#) to you. However, we would like to request that the Province examine the projected effect of the Speculation and Vacancy Tax on the housing conditions on Salt Spring Island. Salt Spring Island is the most populated Gulf Island and deserves to be considered separately from the other islands in the Islands Trust Area. It would be useful to review if the tax would assist in resolving the lack of available housing options which is causing severe impacts for Salt Spring Island employers.

Yours sincerely,

Timothy Peterson  
Chair, Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee  
Islands Trust

***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

Cc: The Honourable Ravi Kahlon, MLA, Minister of Housing  
Adam Olsen, MLA, Saanich North and the Islands  
Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee  
Islands Trust Executive Committee  
Islands Trust website

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