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May 28, 2019

File Number: 6000-30

via e-mail: catherine.mckenna@canada.ca

The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister McKenna:

Re: Supporting Nationally Determined Contribution Target

On behalf of the Islands Trust Council I am writing to express our support for the Nationally Determined Contribution target made in the Paris Agreement. We call upon the federal government to provide additional support to local governments to accomplish this important work.

We are thankful that the federal government has taken a leadership position with regard to climate change. In our view this is not something that can wait. Proactive, ambitious actions are needed now with leadership from the House of Commons. With the target of 2030 just ten years away it is more important than ever that important mitigation policies and measures begin now to achieve the transformational changes we need.

We are ready to intensify our own efforts to address the climate change challenge for the sake of the natural environment and future generations. On March 13, 2019, the Islands Trust Council declared a climate emergency. We are all deeply concerned with the future health of the lands and waters of this sensitive region that is already under stress and especially vulnerable to climate change. However, we need support from your department and from all levels of government to implement the range of changes that are necessary to dramatically reduce emissions. In particular, it would be useful to have funding that supports mitigation measures for rural communities which have different needs than cities.

Our request is that our federal representatives treat this as a critical time and support and implement policies and processes that support local governments to meet these important targets in partnership with all of Canada.

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Thank you for considering this matter. The Islands Trust Council is a federation of local government bodies representing 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and about 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.

Yours sincerely,



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

cc: Islands Trust Area MPs
BOKÉCEN (Pauquachin) First Nation
Cowichan Tribes
Halalt First Nation
Homalco First Nation
Klahoose First Nation
K'ómoks First Nation
Lake Cowichan First Nation
Lekwungen (Songhees) Nation
Lyackson First Nation
MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nation
Penelakut Tribe
Qualicum First Nation
Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation
SEMYOME (Semiahmoo) First Nation
shísháłh First Nation
Snuneymuxw First Nation
Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation
Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation
SʔÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation
Stz'uminus First Nation
SXIMEŁEŁ (Esquimalt) Nation
Tla'amin (Sliammon) Nation
Tsawwassen First Nation
Tseil-Waututh Nation
T'Sou-ke Nation
Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River) First Nation
We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge) First Nation
WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation
WŚIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation
xʷməθkʷəy̓əm Musqueam
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust website