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February 7, 2020

File Number: DE-6410-03

Via email: otterpointstudio@gmail.com

Keith Porteous
The Wrong Bus
Denman Island, BC V0R 1T0

Re: Letter of support for a bus service on Denman Island

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express the Denman Island Local Trust Committee's support for a bus service on the Island. The Denman Island Local Trust Committee is the local land use planning authority and is part of the Islands Trust, a regional council for the islands in the Salish Sea, mandated to preserve and protect the islands, their unique amenities, and their environment.

The Local Trust Committee does not have jurisdiction over transportation directly, but considers community transportation needs and environmental impacts of transportation in all we do.

There are multiple policies in our Official Community Plan that point to support for a local bus service:

From the OCP Vision Statement:

We accept the challenge of adapting to climate change and will alter our lifestyles to live more lightly on the land and to substantially reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Our roads will increasingly be utilized by pedestrians, bicycles, horses and shared, alternately-powered vehicles moving at an appropriate speed.

From Section C4—Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation:

Objective 1 ***To establish the importance of energy efficiency, energy security, greenhouse gas emissions reduction and carbon cycling in land use, site planning, building design and transportation***

Objective 3 ***To work with other agencies, stakeholders and the community to achieve energy conservation and greenhouse gas emissions reduction***

Objective 4 ***To support actions to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change in land use decision-making***

Policy 11 **Residents are encouraged to limit the use of fossil-fuel burning engines** or generators and to use alternative energy sources where possible.

Policy 13e **The Local Trust Committee should work with the Province and Comox Valley Regional District on improving transit options** for Denman Island. While it is recognized that current population and travel patterns may not warrant a traditional transit system, the availability of public transit at Buckley Bay could be expanded, as could **low-intensity transit solutions for Denman Island.**

From Section D2—Transportation and Utilities:

Objective 1: **To minimize the negative environmental and social impacts of land and water transportation**

Objective 2: **To maximize local control of transportation policies and to make them appropriate to an island environment and community.**

This extensive list of objectives and policies makes it clear that a small-scale, locally-operated public bus system is well-supported on Denman Island.

In recent years, there has been increasing activity on Denman and across the whole Islands Trust area focused on addressing climate change. In March, 2019, The Islands Trust Council declared a climate emergency and recently adopted a strategic plan with 80% of goals and action centred on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Personal vehicles are major contributors to carbon emissions. A bus service will offer residents and visitors a more environmentally-friendly option.

It is our hope that the Denman Island bus initiative receive support from all partners and stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Sue Ellen Fast
Chair, Denman Island Local Trust Committee

cc: Denman Island Local Trust Committee