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January 21, 2020

File Number: 0400-20

Via Email: [Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Claire Trevena  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
PO Box 9055  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

**Re: BC Ferries planning – active transportation and electrification**

I am writing of behalf of the Islands Trust Council to request that the Province of BC's direction for planning for BC Ferries integrate British Columbia's Active Transportation Strategy and ferry electrification. In March 2019, the Islands Trust Council declared a climate emergency. We are eager to work with local communities, First Nations, partner agencies, and other levels of government to pursue an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in this very special region. An integral part of this work is ensuring that broad climate-related policies are implemented in a manner that is practical and effective for island communities and visitors.

The Islands Trust Council supports the initiatives and vision outlined in the Active Transportation Strategy and the progress to date towards the electrification of BC Ferries' fleet. Regardless, concerns remain that many of the active and cleaner transportation options advanced in the Strategy are not viable or convenient options for ferry-dependent communities.

The Strategy states that *British Columbia should have an integrated, safe and accessible active transportation system that works for everyone*. We agree and believe BC Ferries has a key role to play on the coast in realizing this vision. Islands Trust trustees hear frequent concerns that there is a lack of coordination between ferry arrival/departure times and public bus arrival/departure times. This can add considerable delays to island residents' travel plans and often results in residents choosing to drive cars rather than use public transportation. We also commonly hear concerns about BC Ferries failing to provide sufficient bicycle storage facilities at terminal hubs. We encourage BC Ferries to continue its dialogue with cycling groups to better inform future vessel and terminal design.

We are very appreciative of the existing senior government funding that helps provide ferry service to our constituents. However, electrification of the ferry fleet will require further investment, as well as removing regulatory and contractual barriers that may inhibit BC Ferries and BC Hydro from proceeding with fleet electrification. The Ministry and BC Ferries should consider working jointly on possible fast-track solutions for electric ferries, particularly the routes served by the new electric-hybrid Island Class vessels, but also considering those that fall outside the existing service contract between BC Ferries and the Province (e.g. initiatives such as the proposed Mayne – Saturna short link).

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Thank you for considering this request. I wish you the very best for the New Year!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Luckham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "P" being large and prominent.

Peter Luckham  
Chair, Islands Trust Council  
[pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca)

Cc: Islands Trust Area MLAs  
Islands Trust Area Electoral Area Directors  
Islands Trust Area Ferry Advisory Committees  
BC Ferries Commissioner  
BC Ferries President and CEO  
Bowen Island Municipal Council  
Islands Trust Council  
Islands Trust website