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February 6, 2014

File No.: 5450-30

via fax: 403-292-5503

Sheri Young
Secretary to the National Energy Board
National Energy Board
444 Seventh Ave SW
Calgary AB T2P 0X8

Dear Ms. Young:

Re: *Urgent: Request for Deadline Extension re: Application to Participate in the Trans Mountain Pipeline ULC Hearing*

I am writing to request that the National Energy Board provide a deadline extension to the Islands Trust Council for submission of the application to participate in the Trans Mountain Pipeline ULC hearing. An extension to March 7 would enable the Islands Trust Council, at its March 4-6 meeting, to consider public input and debate its decision about how to participate in the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project hearing process and the level of taxpayer resources that should be allocated to this initiative.

Your staff did not advise us of the February 12 deadline until January 14, an insufficient amount of notice for an elected body with accountability to taxpayers to make such a significant decision. Accordingly, the Islands Trust Executive Committee voted yesterday, at its first meeting since the application to participate deadline was announced, to direct me to request this extension.

As an elected local government body, the Islands Trust Council is committed to open and transparent decision making. The National Energy Board's rushed timelines are preventing the Islands Trust Council from debating the decision to intervene or comment and the potential financial implications for local taxpayers. Taxpayer implications are especially important since the National Energy Board does not provide Participant Funding to government agencies, even small local governments. Because Islands Trust Council meets quarterly, with 26 members spread throughout a 460 island archipelago, convening an extra meeting to debate this decision at short notice isn't possible. Accordingly, Islands Trust Council requires a deadline extension to March 7, 2014. Council has voted by email to participate in the hearing as a commenter, but I strongly prefer to have such an important decision made in an open meeting and so would be grateful for your fast and positive reply.

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Preserving **Island** communities, culture and environment

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis

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The Islands Trust Council is a federation of local government bodies representing 25,000 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. A large oil spill resulting from the proposed Project or an oil tanker collision or malfunction into the Salish Sea could have a negative impact on the Island Trust Area's unique amenities and environment, directly affecting the advancement of the Islands Trust Council's provincial object.

On behalf of the Islands Trust Council, thank you for urgently considering this request.

Yours sincerely,



Sheila Malcolmson
Chair, Islands Trust Council

cc. The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Federal Minister of Environment
Islands Trust Area MPs: Elizabeth May, Saanich-Gulf Islands
Jean Crowder, Nanaimo-Cowichan
James Lunney, Nanaimo-Alberni
John Duncan, Vancouver Island North
John Weston, West Vancouver/Sunshine Coast
Murray Rankin, Victoria
Trust Area MLAs: Michelle Stilwell, Parksville – Qualicum
Gary Holman, Saanich North and the Islands
Jordan Sturdy, West Vancouver – Sea to Sky
Don McRae, Comox Valley
Doug Routley, Nanaimo – North Cowichan
Nicholas Simons, Powell River – Sunshine Coast
Bowen Island Municipal Council
San Juan County Council
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust website