



Dan Rogers
Gambier Island Local Trustee



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Via E-mail/ Mail

Pam Goldsmith-Jones, M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Goldsmith-Jones:

I write as one of the Local Trustees of the Gambier Islands Trust Area to provide my congratulations on your recent election. Your role as the Member from this fascinating and beautiful area will undoubtedly provide many interesting challenges for you as will your role as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

As you are no doubt aware, the Gambier Islands Local Trust area is the local planning government covering the islands and waters of Howe Sound (excluding Bowen Island) and the eastern half the Strait of Georgia as far north as the south end of Texada Island. In other words, your riding encompasses all of this Local Trust Area. As the local planning authority here, the Gambier Islands Trust Council has many responsibilities but the overriding mandate and mission provided by the provincial Islands Trust Act is to “preserve and protect” the Trust area for future generations and for the benefit of all British Columbians.

There have been numerous challenging situations and proposals arise in our area in the past and these have been growing exponentially since 2010. No doubt you have heard from many of your constituents about proposals to “reindustrialize” Howe Sound just as the Sound is starting to really recover from many years of abuse. Proposals such as logging on Gambier Island, a gravel extraction facility at McNabb Creek and the proposed Woodfibre LNG facility have led many groups to urgently call for greater protection for the Sound and indeed for the whole Salish Sea.

In addition, concerns have been raised about the impact of the proposed expansion of the Kinder Morgan oil export facility in Burrard Inlet and the coal processing facility in the Fraser River and Texada Island and how those impact the fragile ecosystems of this area. As a Trustee for this area, I share those concerns. The Islands Trust Council has made submissions related to various proposals emphasizing the need to protect the marine (and other) ecosystems. Kate-Louise Stamford (my co-Trustee) and I, as individual Trustees, have also taken positions on various proposals emphasizing the incompatibility of large industrial and extraction projects with the sensitive and unique natural environment surrounding us.

I write at this time to welcome you to your role and to invite an ongoing dialogue between Kate-Louise and myself as Trustees and yourself on issues of mutual interest and concern. As part of the greater

Howe Sound community of locally elected representatives we look forward to participating in a regular schedule of communications and meetings with you.

As well I write to highlight two specific issues related to this region which I hope you will consider.

First, a number of municipalities have written to the Minister of the Environment to urge postponing a federal environmental decision on the Woodfibre LNG proposal until a full review of the Environmental Assessment process has been completed and hopefully the process has been overhauled. I, as a local trustee, join in that call and will be writing the Minister directly but also urge you to take that same position with the Minister. This is an opportunity for the new federal government to take a leadership position to protect the environment on this important issue.

Secondly, there is a definitive lack of leadership on an overall growth and impact strategy for Howe Sound. In addition to the variety of industrial proposals for Howe Sound, we are facing a myriad of residential and recreational projects for the area including in Gibsons, Horseshoe Bay, Britannia Beach and Squamish. Independently, each of these proposals may have some merit and may have taken the immediate local environment into consideration. What is clearly missing however is an overall land/marine management plan for the Howe Sound area to guide these proposals and gauge their impact on the environment as well as physical and social infrastructure of the region. This highly active area is one of the few areas of the province without a comprehensive plan relating to its development and overall growth. The provincial government continues to back away from a Regional Land Management Plan citing jurisdictional issues. Therefore, as our MP and the only political representative whose jurisdiction covers the whole of the Howe Sound area, I urge you to take a leadership role on this issue.

As a Trustee of the Gambier Island Local Trust Area I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience and hope to be able to set up a time early in the new year to discuss how best to support you, our fellow local governments, and the first nations stewards in the protection and enhancement of this remarkable area. I am happy to help coordinate a meeting that would include Kate-Louise who knows about and supports me writing to you at this time.

All the best in the New Year. .

Yours sincerely,

(signed) *"Dan Rogers"*

Dan Rogers
Gambier Island Local Trustee

cc Kate-Louise Stamford, Gambier Trustee
Islands Trust Northern Office
Islands Trust Executive Committee

Preserving Island communities, culture and environment

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