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Via Email

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October 6, 2017

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister,

Re: Derelict Vessels in Plumper Cove Provincial Marine Park - Keats Island

I am writing on behalf of the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee, which is responsible for land use planning and management within the Gambier Island Local Trust Area. The Gambier Island Local Trust Area encompasses Keats Island and other islands within Howe Sound and along the Sunshine Coast, and is one of thirteen local trust areas within the broader Islands Trust Area who share a mandate to *“preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally.”*

At the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee meeting held August 31, 2017, the following resolution was passed:

“that the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee prepare correspondence to the Minister in charge of provincial parks to request that they remove the two derelict vessels within the boundaries of Plumper Cove Provincial Marine Park, under the signature of the Local Trust Committee Chair.”

The resolution aligns with the mandate of the Island Trust and also with the Keats Island Official Community Plan, which reads:

“Protecting Keats Island’s natural foreshore and public recreational beaches from pollution, environmental degradation, or modification by inappropriate development or use is extremely important to the community.”

For at least 20 years, two abandoned vessels have remained *in situ* in the intertidal area adjacent to Keats Island within Plumper Cove Provincial Marine Park. Both appear to be derelict sailing vessels and are located in the cove just north of the primary entrance to Plumper Cove and clearly within park boundaries.

The Gambier Island Local Trust Committee requests that your Ministry take responsibility for these vessels and arrange for their removal. We believe that the process to remove and dispose of the vessels would not be complicated and could be accomplished at a relatively small cost. Gambier Local Trustee Dan Rogers and SCRD Director Ian Winn have indicated that they are able to help facilitate this process.

As you are aware, derelict vessels present a significant environmental issue for island and coastal communities. We acknowledge the emphasis that the Federal Government is currently placing on this issue; however in our view, this situation presents an opportunity for the Province of British Columbia to take a leadership role in dealing with derelict vessels within its jurisdiction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan Morrison
Chair, Gambier Island Local Trust Committee
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