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Via e-mail: Ministers_office@nrcan.gc.ca

The Honourable Christian Paradis
Minister of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street, 21st Floor
Ottawa ON K1A 0E4

Dear Minister Paradis:

Re: ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes Program

I am writing on behalf of the Islands Trust Council to encourage the Federal Government to revitalize and reinstate financial incentives for new participants in the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes Program. We are very concerned about the closure of this program to new participants as this program provides important incentives to homeowners to retrofit their homes and thereby reduce their greenhouse gases.

The Islands Trust consists of 12 local trust areas and one island municipality in the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound. We are currently setting greenhouse gas targets for our communities in 20 separate Official Community Plans. The cancellation of this energy efficiency incentive program leaves many homeowners without the means to help us achieve those targets. Furthermore, the program provided much needed stimulus for the local economies of the Trust Area, as many of the energy efficiency upgrades were undertaken through local small businesses and contractors.

Given the need for urgent action to achieve our greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets, and the vital importance of stimulating local economies, we believe that the grants delivered through the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes Program need to be just the beginning, rather than the end, of federal investment in building energy efficiency. The Province of British Columbia announced on April 1, 2010 that it will invest \$35 million over the next three years in LiveSmart BC so that the Province can continue to offer incentives for energy efficient buildings and upgrades. This support recognizes the important role retrofit incentive programs play in economic stimulus while achieving critical climate change goals. We urge the federal government to also continue to assist local governments and the communities they represent to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by:

- Continuing to make energy assessments cost-effective through rebates and subsidies for homeowners; and
- Dedicating adequate and stable funding to meet the demand for energy efficiency retrofit grants and incentives.

We look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

Sheila Malcolmson
Chair, Islands Trust Council

pc: Trust Area MPs
Linda Adams, Chief Administrative Officer, Islands Trust
Islands Trust website