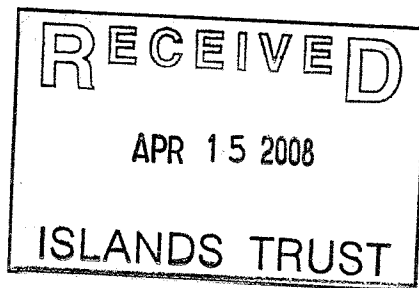




Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

AVR
APP - 8 2008

Kim Benson
Chair
Islands Trust Council
200-1627 Fort Street
Victoria BC V8R 1H8



Dear Kim Benson:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 11, 2008, to the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, regarding the offloading of industrial freight in Plumper Sound, British Columbia. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

At the outset, I should explain that, while the cargoes involved pose no chemical risk to the environment, there are other associated issues, such as excess dust emissions, noise, odours and lighting that can potentially impact shore-side residents and other people using the waters in Plumper Sound.

However, it is important to recognize that the offloading of freight of this kind is not in contravention of any regulations that Transport Canada is responsible for and, as such, the department is not in a position to control or prevent the industrial use of anchorages in this area. That being said, Transport Canada officials will take the next available opportunity to discuss this matter with the vessel operator to see if a resolution to this matter can be found.

Finally, I have taken the liberty of forwarding copies of your correspondence to the offices of the Honourable Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Honourable John Baird, Minister of Environment, so that they might be made aware of your concerns.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours truly,

Andrew Walasek

Andrew Walasek
Special Assistant - Ontario and Western Canada

c.c. Office of the Honourable Loyola Hearn, P.C., M.P.
Office of the Honourable John Baird, P.C., M.P.