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January 18, 2007

File Number: FG/04

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon  
Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities  
Tower C - 330 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Cannon:

**Re: Proposed Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships – Support in Principle**

I am writing on behalf of the Islands Trust Council, a federation of independent local governments which represents some 23,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area. This area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island, including Howe Sound and as far north as Comox. It is a unique and special place composed of 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering approximately 5200 square kilometres of land and water.

In 1974, the Government of British Columbia enacted the *Islands Trust Act* to protect the islands and waters in the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound,. The significance and sensitivity of the Islands Trust Area, and the need for protective measures is internationally recognized.

The legislated object of the Islands Trust, is "*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 the province generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the Government of British Columbia.*"

The Islands Trust Council is comprised of 26 elected trustees and the issue of boat-sourced pollution has been of significant concern to the Islands Trust Council for many years. The Islands Trust Policy Statement Bylaw, Part III, Section 3.4.8 (Coastal and Marine Ecosystems) states that "Trust Council encourages the Federal and Provincial governments to develop and adopt legislation that regulates sewage discharge from shores and boats and addresses its detrimental impact on marine or coastal ecosystems".

The Islands Trust Council supports in principle the federal government's initiative in addressing this issue by proposing *Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships*. In addition, we encourage the federal government to address the lack of requirements for increased pump-out facilities and the lack of adequate enforcement provisions, both of which are critical to the successful implementation of the proposed regulations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

Kim Benson  
Chair, Islands Trust Council

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Preserving *Island* communities, culture and environment

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