



Islands Trust

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June 24, 2008

File Number: PRRD/01

Powell River Regional District Board
Powell River Regional District
5776 Marine Ave
Powell River BC V8A 2M4

Dear Chair Colin Palmer and Board Members:

Re: Support for the Powell River Regional District Board's Resolution (May 22, 2008) on BC Energy's Plan and the prospects of an LNG plant on Texada Island

I am writing on behalf of the Islands Trust Council, a federation of independent local governments that represents some 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area. In 1974, the Government of British Columbia created the Islands Trust 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 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. A key element of the mandate of the Islands Trust Council is working with other governments and agencies to protect our unique islands.

Trust Council believes that the proposed LNG facility on Texada Island poses a threat to the atmosphere (locally and globally), to marine safety and to marine ecology. At its quarterly business meeting in June 2008, the Islands Trust Council unanimously passed the following resolutions:

That the Islands Trust Council request the Chair to write to the Powell River Regional District Board supporting its May 22, 2008 resolution to UBCM regarding BC's Energy Plan, with copies to the appropriate federal and provincial ministers; and

That Trust Council add the Powell River Regional District's proposed resolution to the list of UBCM resolutions that the Executive Council is requested to support at the UBCM convention in September 2008.

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Preserving Island communities, culture and environment

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

June 24, 2008
Page 2

In September 2007 the Islands Trust Council committed to the BC Climate Action Charter. Under this agreement, we will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create more energy efficient communities across the Trust Area. The construction of a LNG facility on Texada Island contradicts those goals and the stated goals of the province's own energy plan and increases dependency on GHG-emitting, non-renewable fuels.

The Islands Trust Council encourages the provincial and federal governments to seriously consider the Powell River Regional District's resolution, thereby protecting the marine environment and showing meaningful leadership on greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Yours truly,



Kim Benson
Chair, Islands Trust Council

Attachment: PRRD May 22, 2008 Resolution

pc: Islands Trust Council
The Honourable Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
The Honourable Barry Penner, Provincial Minister of the Environment
The Honourable John Baird, Federal Minister of the Environment
Nicholas Simons, MLA for Powell River and Sunshine Coast
Blair Wilson, MP for West Vancouver, Sunshine Coast and Sea-to-Sky Country
Powell River Mayor and Council
Islands Trust website

Background:

The Islands Trust Council supports the following resolution of the Powell River Regional District Board:

WHEREAS the Board of the Powell River Regional District supports the objectives of the BC Energy Plan of the Government of British Columbia which states:

- 1. Achieving electricity self-sufficiency is fundamental to our future energy security and BC shall achieve electricity self-sufficiency by 2016.*
- 2. For existing and new electricity plants the government will set policy around reaching zero net emissions through carbon offsets from other activities in British Columbia.*
- 3. The government is committed to ensuring that British Columbia's electricity sector remains one of the cleanest in the world and that the province will require zero greenhouse gas emissions from any coal thermal electricity facilities which can be met through capture and sequestration technology.*

AND WHEREAS WestPac LNG is soliciting interest to build an LNG import facility and associated 600MW gas-fired electricity generating plant on Texada Island, the emissions from which could negatively impact the environment throughout the Powell River Regional District and beyond;

AND WHEREAS WestPac LNG's plans will involve the passage of a significant number of LNG tankers in the Georgia Strait, which will interfere with existing commercial and recreational marine traffic, put at risk these ecologically important and sensitive inland waters, and negatively impact upland development along this route;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, consistent with the Province's goal of energy self-sufficiency and clean power, the Board of the Powell River Regional District urge the Provincial government, as part of achieving the BC Energy Plan, to zero greenhouse gas emissions from new gas-fired electricity generation stations and to support a federal government ban on the passage of LNG tankers in the waters of the Malaspina and Georgia Straits;

AND FURTHER that the Regional Board request the federal government to implement a ban on LNG tankers as indicated above.

AND FURTHER that the Regional Board seek support for these initiatives from other Vancouver Island and mainland communities potentially impacted by WestPac LNG import plans.

ISLANDS TRUST AREA

