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March 30, 2010

File Number: PG/02

The Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Honourable John Yap
Minister of State for
Climate Action
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Honourable Blair Lekstrom
Minister of Energy, Mines and
Petroleum Resources
PO Box 9060 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Premier Campbell and Ministers Yap and Lekstrom:

Re: Proposed Raven Underground Coal Mine (Compliance Coal Corp)

I am writing on behalf of the Islands Trust Council and concerned residents of the Denman Island and Hornby Island Local Trust Areas to state our opposition to the proposed Raven Underground Coal Project in the Comox Valley, adjacent to the Islands Trust Area.

On March 24th, 2010 Trust Council unanimously approved the following motion:

"That the Islands Trust Council request the Chair to write to the Premier of British Columbia and the Minister of State for Climate Action, and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources expressing opposition to the proposed Raven Underground Coal Project, noting that the Islands Trust and the Province of British Columbia are both signatories to the British Columbia Climate Action Charter which states that reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a common goal of the parties to the Charter and noting concerns about potential impacts upon the environment of the Trust Area."

Our planning staff, elected officials and communities are working hard to meet the requirements of the Province's Bill 27 (Green Communities Statutes). The greenhouse gas emissions that would be generated by operating this proposed coal mine would trivialize the sincere efforts we are making. Our success in implementing provincial legislation depends on being able to inspire citizen cooperation. This is impossible to do when residents perceive inconsistent standards being applied. We need consistent and inspiring leadership on the part of the provincial government if we are going to collectively honour the statements articulated in the Climate Action Charter and achieve the emission reductions required by law.

The Islands Trust Council has a provincially legislated mandate to protect the environment of the Islands Trust Area, in co-operation with the government of British Columbia. The Islands Trust Policy Statement, which received ministerial approval, includes a policy encouraging government agencies to prevent the pollution of air. The proponent's own air quality studies clearly show Denman and Hornby Islands are within range of the coal dust and other particulates that could be emitted by this project.

For these reasons, the Islands Trust encourages the government of British Columbia to decide that a new coal mine is inappropriate at a time when the government is requiring British Columbians to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and in a location where impacts can affect an area that has been identified for protection by provincial legislation.

Yours sincerely,

Sheila Malcolmson
Chair, Islands Trust Council

cc: Trust Area MLAs; Islands Trust Council; Gulf Islands Alliance;
Denman Island Concerned Citizens; Islands Trust website