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Right Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper
House of Commons
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0A6

Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of the Environment
House of Commons
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Harper and Minister Prentice:

Re: United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen

I am writing on behalf of the Islands Trust Council, a federation of independent local governments which represents some 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area, to request that the Canadian government take decisive action at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen to bring about an effective global treaty that will result in a reduction of greenhouse gases to safe levels. We encourage you to commit to binding emissions reduction targets and take steps to transform Canada's economy to one that responds to this urgent global crisis.

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.

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.*"

Island ecosystems and communities are particularly vulnerable to climate change, and we are already seeing impacts of climate change all around us. As elected officials we are doing all that we can to preserve and protect this precious part of Canada but our efforts will be undermined if global greenhouse gas emissions are not quickly reduced to safe levels.

Please provide visionary leadership in Copenhagen so that the abundant diversity of our islands and our planet can be sustained in perpetuity.

Yours truly,

Sheila Malcolmson
Chair, Islands Trust Council

pc: Islands Trust Council and Islands Trust website