

Sophie Idsinga

From: Steve | Briteweb <--->
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 7:32 PM
To: Enrique.Sanchez@gov.bc.ca; FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; jordan.sturdy.mla@leg.bc.ca; Mayor Council; pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca
Subject: Regarding logging proposal on Bowen

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Enrique Sanchez, John Rustad, Jordan Sturdy, Peter Luckham & the Bowen Municipal Council,

I'm writing to voice my grave concern about the proposed logging on Bowen Island. This is a small island with a large number of inhabitants and a fast-growing tourist economy. The proposal doesn't make sense environmentally or economically.

We already have water quality issues as well as water retention issues. Logging over a quarter of this island will be a disaster for drinking water quality and retention on the island.

Tourism is picking up dramatically on this island and numbers of people living and developing homes or properties here are growing fast. Tourism is the lifeblood of this small economy and is ecologically sustainable for decades to come. It has a history dating back to the late 1800's. Today, the number of international visitors that come here in the summer to hike and explore is staggering. This initiative will dramatically impact the beauty of the island and the attractiveness as a tourist destination and a home.

As Vancouver home prices continue to rise, many see Bowen Island as a new suburb of Vancouver and a place to raise their families.

I truly hope you'll consider the health and quality of lives of thousands of us on Bowen and look elsewhere for your timber needs.

Finally, if you're not persuaded by the health, economic and welfare risks to the people of this island, I would encourage you to consider the social and political risks of this project. Bowen is an interesting island. There are many influential people tucked away here who are well connected in politics, media and popular culture in Vancouver and the province. There is money on this island that you don't find in many small corners of this province.

There is a quickly organizing group of individuals coming together to rally against the proposed plans. There is already a third of the island signed up for updates and sharing notes and tactics about the coming political fight. This is going to escalate and become a PR disaster for all involved. As someone who has 15 years experience in branding and communications in the social sector, I can say that it makes very little sense to pursue this project so close to Vancouver and the media. The risk vs return is far too low.

I urge you, with respect, to seek alternative options for your timber needs. There are more remote places that will not affect as many people's health and wellbeing. The potential extra cost accessing other areas will be offset by the savings in PR, legal and political campaign costs.