

joining hands across the waters ...

## Gulf Islands Alliance

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Feb 28, 2010

Islands Trust  
200 - 1627 Fort St  
Victoria, BC  
V8R 1H8

Re: Carbon Trading /Sequestration in the Trust Area

Thank you for your letter of December 21, 2010 and your response to our request that the Islands Trust Council create a Task Force to thoroughly and publicly explore the potential impacts that carbon offsets and trading may have for land use in the Trust Area.

Your suggestion that carbon offsets and trading is a "potential subject" for "more in depth" exploration at "a future Council meeting" falls short of our request for a Task Force. We continue to feel that there is some urgency to this issue if the Trust is going to use or allow offsets and trading as a planning tool. As well, there is a great amount of public interest surrounding this issue. See, for example, the *Island Tides*, Dec 2010 final issue and first issue for 2011.

We feel that Trust Council would benefit by at least devoting time to an introductory discussion of how carbon offsets may be felt in the Trust Area. The Denman Island Trustees could provide useful background material and many of the questions raised in our letter of November 24, 2010 could offer a framework for the session. Additional questions may involve the development of safeguards to insure that financing tools employed by developers do not work to counter legitimate Trust objectives. At the conclusion of the discussion further steps such as the creation of a Task Force could be considered.

In the absence of important discussions and necessary review of this issue, and until such time as the use of carbon offsets and trading are proven to further the Object of the Islands Trust, the GIA urges Trust Council to adopt a resolution which would have the effect of precluding the use of carbon offsets and trading as an amenity in any consideration of proposals before local trust committees or municipal councils in the Trust Area which seek to alter land use, specifically but not limited to proposals for amenity zoning.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



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Misty MacDuffee  
Chair, Gulf Islands Alliance