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From: Josh [REDACTED]

Sent: May 13, 2026 12:33 PM

To: Community Input Mailbox <communityinput@ucluelet.ca>

Subject: Letter of Support — Hypocus Island Housing Project | May 20th Public Hearing

[External]

Dear Ucluelet Councillors and Staff,

My name is Josh Hartikainen, I'm a pilot, a small business owner, and a relatively new member of this community. A couple of years ago I made the decision to move to Ucluelet and take over a float plane sightseeing operation here. It was not a small decision. I left behind what I knew, I invested everything I had into this business, and I chose Ucluelet deliberately, because I believed in this place and wanted to build a life here.

I still believe in it. But I want to be honest with Council about something: finding stable, long-term housing here has been one of the hardest parts of that journey.

I'm not a seasonal worker passing through. I'm not here for the summer. I run a business that operates year-round, I'm on the water and in the air above this coastline every week, and I am as committed to this community as anyone. But the rental market has treated me like a temporary guest. I've dealt with short-term leases, uncertainty about renewals, and the constant low-grade stress of not knowing whether I'll have a stable base to operate from. When you're responsible for an aircraft, a business, and the safety of the guests in your care, that kind of housing instability is not a small thing.

I want to buy here. I want to commit fully, put down permanent roots, and stop looking over my shoulder every time a lease comes up for renewal. I want Ucluelet to be the place I retire from, not the place I eventually have to leave. But right now, the path to that feels very narrow.

The Hyphocus Island proposal matters to me for exactly that reason. New supply at different price points and sizes means more options for people like me, not a family of five, not a seasonal renter, just a working professional trying to put down real roots in a community he has chosen.

I also think about what this project means for the broader local economy. Tourism is the lifeblood of this area, and businesses like mine depend on a functioning community behind us. When the people who work in hospitality, retail, and services can't find housing, the whole ecosystem suffers. More homes means more stability for the workforce that keeps Ucluelet running, and that matters to every business owner on this peninsula.

I came here to stay. I'm asking Council to support a project that makes staying possible for me, and for the many others who have chosen this town and are waiting for it to make room for them.

Thanks

Joshua Hartikainen WestCoast Wild Adventures