

**From:** Ryan Torres [REDACTED]

**Sent:** May 13, 2026 11:15 AM

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

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

**[External]**

To the District of Ucluelet and Members of Council,

My name is Ryan and I own Papi's Cantina here in Ucluelet. I've been part of this community for a couple of years, I employ local people, I serve local people, and I'm writing today because the housing crisis in this town is not an abstract problem for me—it is something I deal with every single week.

Finding and keeping good staff in Ucluelet is one of the hardest parts of running a small business here. It's not a wage problem. It's not an attitude problem. It's a roof problem. I have hired great people—cooks, servers, kitchen hands—who wanted to stay, who loved it here, and who left anyway because they could not find anywhere to live. I've turned down applicants I would have hired in a heartbeat because I couldn't in good conscience bring them to town with nowhere to point them.

Every time I lose a staff member to the housing shortage, I lose more than an employee. I lose momentum, I lose consistency, and I lose a little bit of faith that anyone is actually going to fix this problem.

The Hypocus Island proposal gives me real hope. 51 single-family homes, 25 waterfront lots, and 9 micro homes, that's 85 new homes entering a market that is desperately short. The rental suites built into those family homes matter enormously to someone like me. That's where my staff live. That's the kind of modest, practical rental that a cook or a server can actually afford. More of those homes means more of my people can stay.

And I'll be honest, I'd love to buy something myself one day. I've built something real here at Papi's. I want to put down permanent roots in this community, not just operate in it. Right now that feels out of reach. A project like this, which expands the supply and range of what's available, moves that dream a little closer.

The developer has also committed to real infrastructure: widening Helen Road, adding a sidewalk, preserving the island's natural character, and donating land back to the community. This isn't a developer looking to take. This is a developer looking to contribute.

I urge Council to support this proposal. Not just for the homeowners and the young families, but for the small business owners who are fighting every day to keep their doors open and their teams together. We need this.

Thank you for your time.

Ryan