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File: 0400-20

BC Ferries
Suite 500, 1321 Blanshard Street
Victoria BC V8W 0B7
Via email: Nicolas.jimenez@bcferries.com

Attention: Nicolas Jimenez, President and Chief Executive Officer

Dear Nicolas Jimenez:

RE: REQUEST TO HOME PORT ISLAND CLASS VESSELS AT CROFTON AND VESUVIUS

I write on behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board to respectfully urge BC Ferries to reconsider its current proposal to berth both Island Class vessels, planned for deployment on the Vesuvius–Crofton route in 2027, exclusively at Crofton. Instead, the CRD Board encourages BC Ferries to adopt a dual home-porting model, with one vessel berthed at Crofton and the other at Vesuvius, mirroring the successful approach used on the Gabriola Island–Nanaimo Harbour route.

The public announcement of BC Ferries' intention to home port both vessels at Crofton has raised significant concern in the Salt Spring Island community. This proposal, if implemented, could result in job and income impacts for up to 30 Salt Spring Island-based staff and their families. BC Ferries' active recruitment for positions associated with these vessels further underscores the urgency of this issue and the need for thoughtful consideration of local employment consequences.

A dual home-porting arrangement would help preserve these local jobs, improve operational resilience, allow for better crew scheduling flexibility, and reduce unnecessary travel and environmental impacts associated with crew commutes. It would also demonstrate a continued commitment by BC Ferries to the communities it serves and the people who sustain its operations.

We appreciate BC Ferries' efforts to modernize its fleet and improve service reliability and ask that you give serious consideration to this request. Ensuring that one vessel is berthed at Vesuvius would help maintain meaningful employment opportunities on Salt Spring Island and reflect a more equitable and community-minded approach.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss it further and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Cliff McNeil-Smith
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD