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Good afternoon Ms. Hurwitz.

I'm a forest ecologist who's been involved in land use planning as well as research, writing and teaching. In all of these areas I've been involved in projects in Clayoquot Sound, in the UNESCO Clayoquot Biosphere Reserve area.

My professional interest in the Clayoquot Sound area extends back to the 1980s. During the 1980s and 1990s I was involved as a BC government technical expert in development of land use plans for Clayoquot Sound. These plans, involving government-to-government (provincial government and Nuu-Chan-Nulth First Nations) co-management of the area, and implementation of Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM), were groundbreaking. Ongoing land use planning and management in Clayoquot Sound, supported and facilitated by the Biosphere Trust among many others, presents a model for planning and management for the rest of BC, and beyond. It was certainly the template for development of land use plans in the Great Bear Rainforest and on Haida Gwaii, which occupied approximately five years of my professional life!

Much of my research has involved characterizing composition, structure and function of old-growth and second-growth forests. We've established a one-hectare permanent monitoring plot in old-growth forest in Clayoquot Sound. This and other activities I've been involved with are possible in the Clayoquot Biosphere Reserve because of the significant areas of old-growth forests remaining there.

I also co-taught a field course titled 'Rainforest Biocultural Ecology' with Gisele Martin (Tla-o-qui-aht) in spring 2017 and spring 2018 in the Biosphere Reserve area. This was done with assistance and support from the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust. Again, it was the presence of the Reserve, and the support of the Trust, that made Clayoquot Sound the ideal place to teach these courses.

For the reasons listed above, I strongly support the work done in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve by the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust and others. In order to build on the exceptional accomplishments to date, and to enable a bright future for Clayoquot Sound, I strongly support the continued designation of the area as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

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