

From: [FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Old Growth Strategic Review](#)
Subject: FW: Old growth
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From: Brent Dustin <BDustin@westernforest.com>
Sent: December 19, 2019 3:20 PM
To: FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca>
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I would like to start by telling you that although I am not a professional forester I am a logger who has worked my whole life in the forest sector. By now you are probably being bombarded with letters that have scientific evaluations and calculations, articles and data from professional foresters, biologists, and environmentalists all stating that they have the ability to do what is right for B.C.. I will talk about a way of life, natural resources, communities, and future generations of tree farming. I came to B.C in 1977 from Quebec, I wanted to be a logger. My first job was a chokerman (setting chokers on logs for harvesting purposes) I met my wife here that same year and we started our family. Life in Port McNeill was tough we both lived far away from our family's and we endured many hardships living in a small community. We started our family and we had 3 children. Life was hard and you had to be strong to endure the life style here. We have made Port McNeill our home for close to 44 years. I am proud to say that I have 2 sons and 1 grand son working in the(tree farms) I will refer to this terminology because that is what the working mans definition of who we are is(Farmers). Over the years we have been called many things by environmentalists, but in fact we are just farmers creating new crops and ridding the environment of trees that have lived their life cycle and that are creating Carbon Dioxide into the atmosphere, as well as diseased trees that spread their disease in to new stands of vibrant and young forests. Can any normal human being can say that these trees are ancient or that this province has not reforested itself many times over since the conception of time ? Loggers are not people who devour the natural beauty of B.C, we believe that we are an essential part of B.C's history and economic driver for all citizens of B.C and that our work is important to the future of B.C ant its rural communities. Canada is a vast and complex country we allow for freedom of speech and we are not as militant as other countries . We allow peaceful protests, multi-cultural society's and freedom of language that not many countries do. Its complexities are part of who we are and who we will become for future generations. We have a responsibility to listen to The People who are being affected by the decisions of Government policy's surrounding all areas of employment issues, community sustainability and economic growth of our areas after all we invested our lives in these areas and we deserve to be heard with a louder voice that the special interests groups that have and always will be there to create and deflect the truths about who we are. Our foresters and Engineers have code of ethics that they unlike the environmentalists must live by, I have watched the professionalism over the span of my life time and time has changed the new younger generation has been taught that everything that we do leaves a fingerprint on the environment and have adjusted their plans to always put the ecosystems and bio adversities first, these are not just jobs to all of us. There is great pride in the work that we do, even the most hazardous places I have worked we have always put what impact to the ground or landscape first. We are not all uneducated rural Hillbillys we know more about tree farming, ecosystems , all adversities, and are more educated and prepared than all or most of the city dwellers. We care about everything that we do the ground we work on and have made huge advancements in preserving our way of life. Canada is all about natural resources our country does not have the diversity to flip a switch and turn off what we do because special (paid) interests groups want what ever they are seeking and have the ability to form Government party's or influence already elected party's. We are proud hard working Human beings that have invested our lives in doing what's right for all British Columbians. Logging just like wheat fields in Alberta is a gift to us to be able to take old or mature trees, with some younger stands and create a renewable resource that can drive some economical benefits for the good of all its citizens and for the continued prosperity of our beautiful province. We feel privileged to be able to contribute to our governments wellbeing and that knowing that what we do

enables our elected officials to distribute financial support where ever it deems necessary. Because of the length of our growing seasons it takes years to reproduce what we farm but they all grow back they always have. I can't understand how we allow these environmentalists to promote so much hardships on economies , by putting their agendas ahead of their fellow human beings. The costs of living in B.C is very high by putting more people out of good paying jobs and extinguishing the middle class we are heading down a slippery road. Will the environmentalists be here to thank-you when tax's have to go up or more and more people are forced into jobs that cannot sustain small economies and families. The population of the world is growing and with that there will be times that Good Governments will have to make tough decisions for the betterment of their economies and citizens. It will take hard people who will govern for the sake of all area's and the people who have elected them , to make decisions that ultimately reflect the why they have been put in power (For all the People) all of our voices matter not just the ones where there can be political alliances made. We in B.C are at a turning point in our history we can create pain and hardship where it is not needed or we can do what our forefathers did, push through challenging and difficult times and continue to grow our rural areas and believe in the professionals who manage our forests. We have already put aside vast areas of(all) growth trees for all special interests groups to enjoy. Will adding to that and creating hardships for your people worth all the negative impacts for the voice of people who never visit any of the areas already set a side. If you were in Alberta and the same environmentalists wanted to shutdown wheat or canola farms would you accept their arguments? Its time to put our families and communities first, its time to listen to the management plans of our foresters and professionals, its to time to create economic growth with first nations and rural communities, and its time to establish a strong future for all British Columbians where ever they live. WE the stewards of our land deserve our voices to be heard we are the people that have fought the fires, protected vital habitat and continue to play in our environment. We the people of rural areas are asking your government to protect our rights as British Columbians to our rights of prosperity. In conclusion I will tell you of a sample of who we are and what we do. Through the years of living here my father when he was alive frequently visited the North Island. One day while we out in the bush he made the remark that of all the visits he made here he couldn't believe how great the forests grew and that how fortunate we are to be able to live in a province that creates employment and sustains natural beauty of the land. To him an outsider to tell me that was a reassurance that what I was doing was important and it mattered. Now my sons will be able to harvest again the fruits of my labor. This is time and the opportunity for this Government to stand up to outside pressures from environmentalists and say No we are standing with our rural communities and we will allow these managers of our forests to continue to plan for the future of all of our citizens. This will be the legacy that all in power can leave behind and just like our forefathers believe that what you are doing is right for all areas of B.C. we don't want your welfare we just want protection from the devastation that will occur. Thank you

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