

From: [FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Old Growth Strategic Review](#)
Subject: FW: Input on old growth forest submission
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 10:52:59 AM

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From: Sue Turner <sue_invan@hotmail.com>
Sent: January 31, 2020 1:52 PM
To: FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Input on old growth forest submission

Hello, I am a resident of Victoria BC. I am a physician and a musician and I am not affiliated with any local organizations or political parties.

I speak here despite a deep concern for how governments operate and what I think is a commonly held belief that “the government will do what it has already decided to do based on its “political interests”.

I have a concern that this government is creating a process (this opportunity to submit) as a placating measure. That is the result of being a member of this society in which governments do not appear to represent the public interest, particularly of people who are concerned with anything that is not economically motivated.

Despite that, I submit that:

As long as the old growth forests are seen as an economic entity, I do not think it matters much what you do as a government; because ultimately when forests are seen as a commodity, they will ultimately be used for that purpose. Even recreational use implies the old growth forest as a use for humans. It leaves us humans thinking that nature is there for us to “use”. This negates the value of the forest, in and of itself, as nature, a place where humans do not have the right to “use it for a purpose.” Ultimately, the way things are going, economics will prevail and the forest will be “used” not honoured in a way that could lead to the simple act of leaving it alone.

You may be wondering if I’m implying that the government’s job is to be responsible for the cultural values of the people it represents ?

It’s not your job to shift peoples’ context of nature is it ?

I believe that every person in government cares about something that has you be there. And I dare say that “economic growth” and profits for companies and guaranteed jobs for people in industries including logging for example, is not what had you enter politics. These are the things that politicians end up dealing with.

What if the government’s job was actually to guide society; in which your modern day job could be to actually deal with the current state of the planet (including our corner of it).

As long as you, the government comes from a context of satisfying interested parties, and short sighted problem solving such as keeping jobs for loggers or miners or any industry that perhaps isn’t serving the planet as a whole, AS LONG AS you refuse to deal with the context in which you choose to operate, there is no real good you can do for the old growth forest.

My request is that you listen to people who speak for the forest, for the forest’s sake.

Anyone who has a financial interest in the old growth forest should not be sitting at the table.

This approach would not deny anyone’s right to participate in a conversation unless their own financial interest was the primary concern.

Thank you for this opportunity,
Sue Turner