From: FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX

To: Old Growth Strategic Review

Subject: FW: Old Growth Strategic Review written submission

Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 3:18:52 PM

From: Rob Ubleis <rob.ubleis@ubleislogging.com>

Sent: January 28, 2020 2:40 PM

To: FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca> **Subject:** Old Growth Strategic Review written submission

Dear Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development,

I am a third generation timber harvesting contractor, owner of Ubleis Logging Ltd. and have the business has been in business for 65 of years. My company harvests old growth timber from the Fort St James and area working forest. Access to this working forest is critical to my company's future and success as well as my family and employees families.

I value old growth because my company creates approx. 100 local, stable, well-paid jobs and sub contract in Fort St. James. These jobs allow people to work where they live and be part of the local community. My company has an annual payroll of \$3,500,000. We contribute to the local economy and help make Fort St. James a place where people can live AND work. Additionally, my company buys locally and regionally from a variety of suppliers—Fort Machine Works Ltd, Northland Automotive, BNK Automotive, Four River Co-op, Pilot Petroleum Ltd, Inland Group, Great West Equipment to name a few, and our work supports other businesses operating in Fort St James. The Government just announced a new hospital, if there is a reduction to our "working forests" due to Caribou habitat, old growth values or other reasons I see Fort St James not needing a new hospital as there will be no one left. The current government has failed to show how our communities would transition with minimal impact and how protecting the old growth forests in the Northern interior actually may in fact compromise forest health as a whole in the interior. Also in the Northern interior a lot of the old growth stands our riddled with disease and beetle. All species have been affected and getting worse. Protecting them opposed to managing them will only hurt our industry further.

I ask that input from communities is taken seriously and not driven by alternative agendas from people and groups from the urban areas or out of province and country like we continue to see. Please listen to silent majority is too busy supporting their families, communities as well as paying their taxes to advocate for what they believe. Business' and my employees represent the silent majority

Thank you,

Rob Ubleis



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