March 11, 2020

Ravi Kahlon, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
East Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Parliamentary Secretary Kahlon,

I would like to take this opportunity to update your mandate letter regarding your work as Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

In addition to the good work you’ve already been doing with respect to the challenges facing the interior forest industry, I would also like you to provide leadership in coordinating government’s efforts to expand the production and utilization of mass timber building products.

You will recall that in April 2019, government announced its intention to encourage the increased use of mass timber building products in its capital construction program, particularly in the development of the new St. Paul’s Hospital and the replacement Royal B.C. Museum. While much of the work done to date has focused on creating the conditions for ensuring the appropriate fibre is available to those seeking to produce mass timber products, more must be done to ensure that those developing capital projects incorporate mass timber to the extent possible.

By using mass timber in this way, government can help showcase the product’s potential and help create a new market. To that end, I would like you to work with:

- The Honourable Selina Robinson and the new Assistant Deputy Minister of Wood Innovation assigned to her Ministry;
- The Honourable Michelle Mungall and Forest Innovations Investment Ltd. in their efforts to develop new markets for mass timber; and
- Other members of the Executive Council responsible for capital construction projects to ensure that mass timber become a key consideration in new capital construction in the public and private sectors.
Additionally, I would like you to create a joint government/industry steering committee that can meet semi-annually to provide guidance and advice to government’s efforts and provide regular updates to Priorities and Accountability on your progress.

We have an opportunity to build the forestry future we all want: a competitive industry with opportunities for local workers, real partnerships for First Nations, and security for forest-dependent communities. I look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

John Horgan
Premier

cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development