

December 22, 2006

Councillor Denise Blackwell
Chairperson, Capital Regional District
PO Box 1000
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Dear Councillor Blackwell,

I am writing with respect to the proposed E&N Rail with Trail Project that has been previously been endorsed by the Capital Regional District and a number of constituent municipalities. The Land Conservancy views this project as an important initiative that would significantly enhance our community and its transportation linkages.

The proposed trail would run very close to TLC's Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse (National Historic Sites) and would be a great benefit to the operation and success of those sites, providing a new means of access that would allow us to link the site to a city-wide trail network.

During the past nine years, TLC has worked hard, along with the CRD, the Province and other partners to protect a number of significant properties in this region for conservation purposes. These properties add to the local and regional parks system and help to make this area both a wonderful place to live and a wonderful place to visit. We see the addition of this new trail as a further contributing factor in enhancing our quality of life and in boosting our tourism potential.

The importance of protecting corridors such as this in urban and suburban areas cannot be stressed too highly. They provide incredible opportunities for recreation and transportation that could never be achieved through other means. The Capital Region's experience with the Galloping Goose and Lochside Trails is testament to the value placed on such facilities by the area's residents.

The Land Conservancy fully supports this project and, as always, we remain open to helping in whatever way we can that may be appropriate. We encourage you and your fellow directors, as well as the Province, to look favourably upon bringing this project to reality. It will serve and enhance our community for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Bill Turner
Executive Director, TLC

cc Mayor Christopher Causton, Chair, CRD Parks Committee
Mayor Graham Hill, Town of View Royal
Hon. Gordon Hogg, Minister of State for Act Now BC