



UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

District 3

Western Provinces and Territories

Stephen Hunt
District Director

June 14, 2016

Mayor & Councillors
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor & Councillors,

I'm writing to draw your attention to an issue of importance to members of the United Steelworkers working in the BC forest industry, particularly those employed on Vancouver Island.

It has come to our attention that certain organizations are lobbying for an end to old growth logging in the Walbran area of TFL 46, and more recently, some other areas of the Island. Such a move would inflict considerable harm to the thousands of workers employed in the forest industry throughout Coastal BC.

Our union believes strongly in the value of our province's working forests. Our forests are a renewable resource that requires proper management to ensure their sustainability for generations to come. We have not shied away from raising our concerns when actions are undertaken that threaten this sustainability; be it from companies that are not logging responsibly, governments that are allowing for record number of log exports or organizations which seek to lock up large areas of the working forest resulting in lost jobs, economic activity and reduced revenue for important government programs.

High value timber from old growth logging is an integral element of the forest industry that provides balance to the lower value strands of timber that are logged by our members.

As these issues are discussed, we ask you to consider the perspective of forest workers, their families and communities that rely upon a sustainable, working forest for their livelihoods.

Should Council be interested, our office would be pleased to present more information on this important topic for your consideration.

Page 2
June 14, 2016

Sincerely,



Stephen Hunt
Director

SH/SL/gt



Copy: Capital Regional District
Bob Matters
USW Vancouver Island Local Unions

Our ref: 1980-136-1 Coast Locals Correspondence
1980-131- Steelworkers Wood Council Correspondence
1620-100 Timber Harvesting