

Time to review the Islands Trust Act?

The petition being circulated by the Gulf Islands Citizen's Council (there's only one of them? ...or do they mean ...Citizens'...) asks for:

(a) modernizing and streamlining the Act,

What evidence is there that it is out-of-date?

(b) balancing the preservation and protection of our vibrant, diverse rural communities, with the security of our natural environment, and

What does that mean? Only by reading the statements of supporters can you find out what it means to some people is allowing more development. The thinking presumably is that the rest of the world is being over-populated and over-developed, so why shouldn't the Gulf Islands be too.

Never-ending growth is a bad habit we need to, and eventually will have to, do away with. The Islands Trust and island residents are attempting to do just that, on behalf of not just themselves but all of the people of BC. What to the petitioners may be empty and fallow land is actually wildlife habitat and a natural, often forested, environment.

(c) establishing locally accountable and responsible governance structures.

Gabriola went to referendum November 20, 2004 on whether to incorporate as a municipality. The vote was NO, with 87% of voters rejecting incorporation. The turnout was 70%. We elect the Island Trust Trustees in a process that is by any measure democratic. Saying the trustees are not accountable or responsible is untrue and close to being insulting to those who volunteer.

I won't be signing.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Islands+Trust+real+democracy+work/3260202/story.html>