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Alliance to Stop LNG applauds Islands Trust Resolution: *Ban LNG Tankers and Emit No Greenhouse Gases*

Nanaimo, BC – The Islands Trust Council has unanimously supported a call to the federal government to ban liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers in Georgia Strait, and to the provincial government to disallow greenhouse gases emissions (GHGs) from new gas-fired electricity generation plants. The Council will support the resolution at the UBCM convention in September 2008.

On June 12, at its quarterly meeting on Galiano Island, the Council received a presentation by Texada Action Now and the Alliance to Stop LNG. Following the presentation, the Trustees formally backed up a resolution passed in May this year by the Powell River Regional District – a call to ban LNG tankers and to allow no GHGs from gas-fired generation plants.

Islands Trust Council is responding to a proposal by WestPac LNG to build an LNG import terminal and a 600 megawatt gas-fired generation plant on the north end of Texada Island. The terminal would accommodate 36 LNG tanker shipments per year, 72 trips, through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Georgia Strait to Texada Island – a route that takes it directly past most of the Gulf Islands in the Islands Trust.

"This is the home of everyone in the Islands Trust," says Sheila Malcolmson, Trustee for Gabriola Island. "It is no place for LNG tankers and the security and environmental risks they expose us to."

In the United States, security procedures around LNG tankers are severe. "No sail" zones of a mile in front, two miles behind and half a mile on either side of a tanker are practiced. Airspace above the ships is restricted. Armed tenders accompany the carriers.

"We applaud the Trustees for supporting this very progressive resolution," says Deborah Conner, Executive Director of the Georgia Strait Alliance. "It sends a strong statement to the provincial and federal governments about the many risks to people, property, and the environment, of the WestPac proposal."

"Our Regional District Directors have worked closely with us, and agree with Texada residents that the risks and impacts of tankers through our precious waters are not worth taking," says Chuck Childress, chair of Texada Action Now. "We agree with the Premier that the world faces a climate crisis, and that BC's greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced. He won't allow emissions from coal-fired generation; it only makes sense that he shouldn't allow GHGs from new gas-fired plants."

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For more information, please contact these Alliance members:

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Enclosure: The Powell River Regional District Resolution