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Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation  
Regional and Rural Development Unit  
Rural Policy & Program Branch  
Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program  
(REDIP) Economic Diversification Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

**RE: GALIANO AFFORDABLE LIVING INITIATIVE SOCIETY (GALI)**

I write to provide my enthusiastic support of the GALI funding application to the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP), advancing the development of affordable housing in their small island community. Specifically, GALI seeks funding to cover the engineering and architectural planning and designs required to develop twelve units of much-needed workforce housing at 1663 Georgia View Road on Galiano Island in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area.

The challenge of providing workforce housing is well known across our province and country. What is not well known are the significant barriers that rural islands face in terms of accessing funding and the unique and damaging impact the lack of workforce housing has on our islands.

Our rural islands are challenged to build housing inexpensively, as materials must arrive by ferry, which adds both transportation time and ferry costs. Infrequent and irregular ferry schedules simply don't allow for commuting between islands. In areas with transit and interconnected road networks, workforce mobility is extensive. On Galiano, the only source of workforce housing is that which exists there which is precious little. This has a grim impact on its fragile economy. It is not just the economy. On Galiano, a shortage of housing for daycare workers and health professionals also has far reaching social impacts.

Even more barriers exist. The size of housing developments on our islands are restricted by provincial zoning bylaws (*Islands Trust Act*) which limit scale, ostensibly to maintain rural character. Smaller housing developments have higher per unit costs than large multi-family urban developments, making them less attractive when vying for senior government funding. A lack of urban scale transit, active transportation trails, water and wastewater infrastructure all diminish rural workforce housing when competing with urban developments for funding.

If REDIP could help GALI, the impact would reach far into the Galiano community, providing further impetus for agencies like the Capital Regional District, Islands Trust, BC Housing and related entities to support the workforce housing needs of the island. It is my sincere hope that the REDIP considers the GALI funding application positively.

Best regards,



Paul Brent  
CRD Electoral Area Director  
Southern Gulf Islands