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From: Concerned Citizens [concernedcitizens@shaw.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2008 2:28 PM
To: Municipal Hall
Subject: changes to the OCP

Dear Mayor and Council, It is not easy to go against the current trend where everybody pushes for growth. But before agreeing to make changes to the OCP or UCB let us make a brief research:

1. No doubt: there is a building boom on the Southern Island; but I wonder, is that really in response to an urgent need? How many condominiums are staying empty? And how many condominiums are being bought by foreign investors who never intend to live in them - at the most once a year for a couple of days. Why not put a restriction on these empty spaces before considering changing the existing infrastructure?
2. If a new housing complex is being advertised as "affordable", I wonder: affordable for whom?
3. Don't let us be deceived by environmental friendly talk and "green" approach - if it sells better, won't developers just tell what you want to hear?
4. Let's set our priorities right. There is a growing problem with fuel as we all know. How long would we be able to let our food being shipped from far away to feed the population on the island? We have to use every inch of land for food production in the future. Seeing all the new condominiums being built (especially in Saanich and Langford) we wonder how all these people will get their food in future if there is an emergency.
5. Instead of making the rich richer by selling valuable land to developers let us protect the land for future agricultural use. The UCB should be controlled by the CRD so protection of agricultural / rural land is being guaranteed.
6. Do we really have to push for growth no matter how minor? Quality of life is more important than growth. Why not stay small and healthy and be satisfied with what we have instead of giving in to the pressure of growing bigger? The simple lifestyle is much more superior than any luxury!

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of Central Saanich