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Don't be short-sighted

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The executive of the Peninsula Co-op have made an extraordinary political statement in a recent newsletter to members. They say that Central Saanich council is acting unwisely by preventing the building of a new food store at the junction of West Saanich and Keating Rd. The land to be built on is currently agricultural. The executive are urging the residents of Central Saanich to vote for a pro-development council. Council members who twice voted against the proposal are named.

To support their position, the executive talk about a petition signed by over 800 families. They fail to mention that the membership have not in any way been polled on this issue. The petition did not allow one to vote against this development proposal, but only to register support. Over 4,000 members did not vote in favour of the development. In short, the petition is a deeply flawed measure of the will of the membership.

Co-op members have to be very careful this election. A short sighted vote to pave more farmland so that we can have an even bigger grocery store (is that truly what we need right now?) will also open a Pandora's Box of development.

Bert Slater,

North Saanich

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