



Gwaii Haanas Tour Operators Association

Fostering Quality, Ethics and Communication
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November 14, 2006

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6 pm@pm.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

Members of the Gwaii Haanas Tour Operators Association (GHTOA) request your commitment to maintaining the offshore oil and gas moratorium in British Columbia.

It is imperative that a clear position on maintaining the moratorium is confirmed by the federal government. Due to the lack of this commitment, many communities on coastal British Columbia remain in limbo. In order for these communities to develop long-term plans for economies that are not reliant on the extraction of non-renewable resources, they must soon have a clear indication of the federal government's position.

The people of British Columbia value our ocean and coastline, both for their intrinsic beauty as well as the growing links between a healthy ocean and a healthy economy. Tourism, ecotourism, commercial and sport fishing all bring jobs and economic viability to our communities. Coastal communities, local industries and the workers they employ will all be put at risk if an oil or gas spill were to occur. These risks far outweigh the questionable benefits the offshore oil and gas industry could bring to the province.

GHTOA members urge you to publicly confirm the maintenance of British Columbia's offshore oil and gas moratorium.

We look forward to your written response.

Sincerely,

Gord Pincock
GHTOA President

Cc: The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of the Environment
The Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources
Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia
Nathan Cullen, Skeena - Bulkley Valley MP
Gary Coons, North Coast MLA

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