

From: colin rombough [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 9:31 AM

To: Vanessa Craig; Tyler Brown; Jessica Stanley; Lauren Melanson; Bob Rogers; Leanne Salter; Lehann Wallace; Stuart McLean; Leonard Krog; Sheryl Armstrong; Ben Geselbracht; Erin Hemmens; Paul Manly; Janice Perrino; Ian Thorpe; Doug O'Brien; Sean Wood; Mark Swain; Teunis Westbroek

Subject: Create more sustainable farms and housing in the RDN- Allow a second dwelling on AG2 lands

Hello,

I am writing to request that the RDN Board direct District Staff to look at options to update Bylaw 500 to **allow a second dwelling on AG2 zoned parcels larger than 2ha.**

This would **allow for the same housing density on AG2 lands as is currently allowed on AG1 lands**. This change **would be in alignment with both the Official Community Plan (which allows two dwelling on Agricultural lands in the ALR) and recent changes made by the Provincial Government through the Agricultural Land Commission Act.**

In terms of creating more housing in our region this is low hanging fruit and seems like a no brainer.

We own a 17.5ac (7ha) farm in the ALR on Nanaimo Lakes Rd. Our property has been a farm for almost 100 years we intend to keep it actively farming for another 100 years. We are actively farming the land and in 2020 we planted 5000 apples trees becoming the largest apple grower on the south coast. Farming takes a village. We would like to move a second dwelling (recycle a home) onto our property so that [REDACTED] can move onto our farm. This would help us with childcare and further make our farming life more manageable. The addition of a second house would not come at the expense of farmland but rather it would allow our farming operation to be more sustainable.

In terms of addressing the housing needs of our region, amending bylaw 500 and the rules around AG2 lands would allow [REDACTED] to move on to our farm and sell her house in Parksville. This would immediately open up much needed housing units in our region. **This amendment would allow for the same housing density that is currently allowed on AG1 lands or "prime" agricultural lands.** Surely if a second dwelling is permitted on AG1 lands then it makes sense to allow the same density on AG2 lands.

I have contacted District staff about this issue. I was informed that they are currently working to update bylaw 500. I asked whether a change to bylaw 500 allowing a second dwelling on AG2 lands could be considered. District staff informed me that this change would require direction from the Board.

I am therefore requesting that the Board ask staff to look into updating bylaw 500 to allow a second dwelling on all Agricultural Lands (AG1 and AG2 in the ALR) greater than 2ha.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Colin Rombough

[REDACTED]
Nanaimo, BC
[REDACTED]