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October 22, 2018

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, MP
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings, Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

The Alouette River Management Society is a non-profit stewardship organization operating within the boundaries of Maple Ridge, British Columbia and proactively works to protect and improve the Alouette River Watershed and surrounding areas. The Alouette River is a major tributary of the Pitt River and an important component the Fraser River ecosystem.

Recently it has been brought to our attention that the “Heart of the Fraser”, which is the last-remaining un-diked floodplain of the lower Fraser River between Mission and Hope, is under threat due to the agricultural development of two natural islands, Herrling and Carey, that threatens the stability and preservation of this river reach and associated fish production.

We strongly believe that it is important that we support our sister stewardship groups, as we all play a collective role in ensuring the overall health of our waterways and all of the fish and wildlife dependent on them are maintained and enhanced.

Therefore, we are writing today to lend our support to the request being put forward by the BC Wildlife Federation asking that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans consider assisting in the acquisition and protection of the critical habitat provided by Herrling and Carey Islands, by designating them as ‘ecologically significant areas (ESA)’ under the revised Fisheries Act, and providing a financial contribution to the purchase of these islands.

It is our understanding that this is a time sensitive request, so we respectfully request that you strive to give immediate attention to this important request to protect a key section of this historical British Columbian river.

Sincerely,

Per:


On behalf of the Board of Alouette River Management Society
Cheryl Ashlie
President