



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Alistair MacGregor

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - COWICHAN-MALAHAT-LANGFORD

Parliamentary Office
519 Confederation Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Duncan Community Office
101-129 Ingram St.
Duncan, BC V9L 1P1

Langford Community Office
3202B Happy Valley Rd.
Langford, BC V9C 1P1

Ottawa Tel.: 613-943-2180

Community Office Toll Free Tel.: 1-866-609-9998

Email: Alistair.MacGregor@parl.gc.ca **Web:** alistairmacgregor.ca



June 13, 2017

The Honourable Marc Garneau
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Garneau,

I am writing on behalf of constituents who have ongoing concerns with the repeated use of anchorages in the Cowichan Bay and southern Gulf Islands region by ships awaiting the loading facilities at Port Metro Vancouver.

The Cowichan Bay Ship Watch Society represents the interests of concerned residents who have had their enjoyment of the pristine and beautiful marine setting interrupted and negatively affected by large freighters that are required to keep noisy generators going in order to power their navigational lighting. These requirements are set out by international regulations, but the noise and light pollution is a constant interruption when the ships are anchored in these locations. Residents also have concerns about the impact of the continued anchoring of these ships on the fragile maritime environment, which is currently being considered as a part of a National Marine Conservation Area. A fuel spill would have disastrous consequences for marine life. I have also had correspondence from residents on Thetis Island who are experiencing the same issues with anchorages near that island.

My constituents have been in contact on several occasions with Port Metro Vancouver, the Chamber of Shipping, and the Pacific Pilotage Authority. All have publicly acknowledged that the ships negatively impact Island residents, but so far a solution has yet to materialize.

Minister, there must be a better way to organize the loading and unloading of freighters at Canada's Pacific Gateway into a more efficient system that does not require the extended use of anchorages around the southern Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands region. Perhaps Transport Canada and Port Metro Vancouver can coordinate with incoming ships to modify their speed so as to not create a backlog of parked ships, each waiting in the queue. My constituents have also learned that there have been problems with supply chain issues in the export of grain, which have led to the inefficient loading of freighters. These are problems the federal government, with its considerable resources, can surely solve.

I am bringing the issue of these anchorages to your attention for resolution. You, as the Minister of Transport, have considerable authority at your disposal, and I think it is time for the federal government to step in and find a solution so that these anchorages are not used on a regular basis.

On behalf of my affected constituents, I appreciate and thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alistair MacGregor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alistair MacGregor, MP
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

AM/am