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I am writing to express serious concern regarding the proposed changes under **CVRD Bylaw 4710**, particularly as they relate to rural life, agricultural practices, and housing realities in the Cowichan Valley.

While some of these regulations may be appropriate in urban settings, they do not reflect the practical needs or lived experience of residents in rural and semi-rural areas of the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

The proposed maximum fence height of 3.5 ft is not workable in this region.

Wildlife such as elk and deer are a constant and significant presence. Fences of this height are ineffective at preventing intrusion, as elk can easily clear them. This creates serious and ongoing consequences for residents, including Destruction of gardens and food-producing spaces.

Financial burden associated with repeated repairs and mitigation efforts.

Safety concerns for pets and residents.

Overall this regulation does not account for wildlife pressure effectively prevents residents from protecting their property and achieving even basic levels of food security

Restrictions affecting poultry practices limit the ability of residents to maintain self-sustaining flocks, increasing reliance on commercial suppliers.

Limitations tied to “human consumption” create ambiguity around common and beneficial rural practices such as growing feed for animals or supporting local ecosystems.

Barriers to informal sharing or selling of farm goods risk discouraging neighbor-to-neighbor food exchange, which has long been part of rural community resilience. At a time when food security is widely recognized as important, these provisions move in the opposite direction

The bylaw introduces several measures that significantly restrict individuals freedoms and

rights. These policies reduce flexibility for landowners while increasing costs, making it more difficult for residents to live and work on their lands

Certain provisions raise broader concerns about personal freedoms and community character:

Restrictions on flags and signage intentionally limits forms of personal or cultural expression. This will affect everyday activities such as community events or small local sales.

These rules may go beyond land-use planning and begin to affect reasonable expressions of identity and community life.

The scale of potential penalties under the bylaw is particularly concerning.

Fines of up to \$50,000 per day for non-compliance create a level of financial risk that is disproportionate to many of the potential infractions. For ordinary homeowners, even minor or unintentional violations could quickly escalate into severe financial hardship. You will be making thousands of people HOMELESS

Additionally, enforcement provisions that allow entry onto private property without clear limitations is a violation on our rights and will diminish residents privacy and security

It is difficult to understand why such extensive regulatory changes are being prioritized at a time when the region is facing pressing challenges, including housing availability and affordability. Rv living has been occurring for years if not decades as a means of survival in these hard housing times and you will essentially make thousands of people HOMELESS

Many existing rural properties are stable, productive, and contribute positively to the community. Introducing restrictive measures risks creating new problems rather than addressing urgent ones.

Please rethink and review this bylaw as you are going to make thousands of families including children homeless.