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Subject: CVRD Bylaw 4710 – This Will Harm Residents
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I am writing to state, in the strongest possible terms, my opposition to CVRD Bylaw 4710.

This bylaw is not a minor adjustment. It is a sweeping overreach that shows a clear disconnect from the reality of living in the Cowichan Valley. If passed as written, it will do real, measurable harm to residents—especially those already under pressure from rising costs and a worsening housing crisis.

This Bylaw Ignores Rural Reality

The proposed fence height limit of 1.2 metres is a perfect example of how out of touch this bylaw is.

Anyone who actually lives here knows that elk and deer move freely through properties year-round. A fence under 4 feet is not a barrier—it is meaningless. This rule effectively guarantees:

- Loss of gardens and food production
- Ongoing property damage
- Increased costs that residents must absorb themselves

This is not regulation. It is forcing people to accept preventable loss.

You Cannot Talk About Food Security While Undermining It

There is a serious contradiction at the heart of this bylaw.

On one hand, there is constant discussion about sustainability and food security. On the other, this bylaw introduces restrictions that make it harder for people to actually produce food.

Small-scale farming, raising animals, growing feed, and sharing food within a community are not problems—they are solutions. Yet this bylaw treats them like nuisances to be controlled.

That approach is backwards and harmful.

RV Living Is a Lifeline—And You Are Trying to Cut It Off

This is where the bylaw becomes not just frustrating, but unacceptable.

People are living in RVs because they have to and you will make them homeless

There is not enough housing. What exists is often unaffordable. Waiting lists are long. Construction is slow and expensive. These are not opinions—they are the lived reality across the Cowichan Valley.

RV living fills that gap. It allows people to:

- Stay on their land while building a home
- House family members when there are no other options
- Avoid falling into homelessness

And yet this bylaw moves to restrict, penalize, or eliminate that option.

Let's be clear about what that means:

If you restrict RV living in the middle of a housing crisis, you are not solving a problem—you are creating one.

You are:

- Forcing people off their land
- Breaking up families who rely on shared property
- Pushing residents closer to homelessness which WILL happen

There is no practical alternative being offered here. You are removing a solution without replacing it.

This Is an Overreach Into People's Lives

This bylaw goes far beyond reasonable land-use planning.

It dictates how people can use their land, how they house themselves, and how they support their families. It introduces high financial barriers, rigid limits, and rules that do not adapt to different property types or needs.

For rural residents, land is not just an investment—it is how they live. This bylaw treats it as something to be tightly controlled rather than responsibly used.

The Priorities Are Completely Misaligned

At a time when housing affordability and availability are critical issues, this bylaw focuses on adding restrictions to people who are already adapting as best they can.

Residents are finding ways to:

- House themselves and their families
- Grow food and reduce costs
- Make rural living viable

And instead of supporting those efforts, this bylaw penalizes them.

This bylaw does not reflect the needs of the Cowichan Valley. It reflects a one-size-fits-all approach that does not belong in a rural region.

RV living is not the problem—it is one of the only things currently helping people stay housed.

Removing or restricting it without providing real alternatives is inhuman and extremely detrimental to individuals and families.

I am calling on the CVRD to:

- Immediately reconsider the bylaw in its current form
- Recognize RV living as a necessary and legitimate housing option
- Adjust regulations to reflect rural realities, including wildlife pressures

Until these issues are addressed, this bylaw should not move forward.

This is a serious issue with real consequences. The people affected are not hypothetical—they are your residents.

I urge you to listen before making a decision that will cause lasting harm.

The fact that you are trying to push this without public hearing shows that you have no interest or residents and WANT TO SEE PEOPLE DIE AND SUFFER