

From: [Debby McKercher](#)
To: [legislativeservices](#); [Zoning](#); [Development Services](#); [PlanYourCowichan](#); [Public Hearings](#); [Sierra Acton](#)
Subject: Opposition to Comprehensive Zoning By-Law 4710
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2026 8:08:53 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Cowichan Valley Regional District and Electoral Area Directors,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Comprehensive Zoning By-Law 4710.

Cowichan Valley is cherished for its rural charm, beauty, and the flexibility it provides for multigenerational living and hobby farms. Many families depend on having a relative stay in an RV or trailer on their property. At a time when we face a housing affordability crisis, this type of flexibility is more necessary than ever. Other jurisdictions are embracing flexible housing options, yet your proposed regulations would only serve to push more individuals onto the streets during a time when the unhoused population in Duncan is already at a crisis level.

I would like to highlight the following issues:

Restrictions on Backyard Hens

Limiting the number of chickens on rural acreage properties—especially those over 2 acres—directly impacts residents' ability to support themselves with small-scale food production.

Regulation of Temporary and Auxiliary Living Arrangements

The increasing restrictions on RVs, trailers, and alternative housing arrangements fail to reflect the current housing reality and unfairly target vulnerable populations who will now be at risk of homelessness, including older adults on fixed incomes.

Restrictions on Storage (Sea Cans / Containers)

For rural properties, the use of shipping containers is often practical and necessary. Over-regulating their placement or visibility imposes aesthetic standards that may not reflect rural priorities or realities.

Inhumane Financial Penalties

The introduction of fines up to \$50,000 per offence, with daily accumulation, is deeply concerning and unacceptable. Such penalties are disproportionate and could devastate ordinary families over minor infractions. This is unlawful!

Request for Action

I respectfully request that the CVRD:

- Reconsider and revise the proposed limits on backyard hens.
- Allow greater flexibility for alternative housing solutions on rural properties, like housing a relative in an RV.
- Reduce or eliminate excessive financial penalties.
- Reassess regulations on storage containers to better reflect rural needs.
- Engage in meaningful consultation with affected residents before adopting this bylaw.

A public hearing needs to be mandatory!!!

I urge you to listen to public opinion and stop fast tracking implementation of By-Law 4710 in an attempt to get it into effect before the October elections.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Debby McKercher

[REDACTED] Baldy Mountain Rd, Shawnigan Lake
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone