
FW: Bylaw 4710

From Ben Maartman <ben.maartman@cverd.bc.ca>
Date Mon 3/30/2026 3:00 PM
To legislativeservices <legislativeservices@cverd.bc.ca>

From: Courtney Cook [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2026 12:29 PM
To: Ben Maartman <ben.maartman@cverd.bc.ca>
Subject: Bylaw 4710

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Dear Ben Maartman,

I am writing to formally express my opposition to CVRD Bylaw 4710 and to respectfully request that a public hearing be held before any further steps are taken.

While I understand that bylaws are intended to provide structure and consistency, this proposal carries serious unintended consequences for rural property owners. Many residents in the Cowichan Valley have intentionally invested in large-acreage, often multi-million-dollar properties with the understanding that they could use their land for food production, small-scale agriculture, livestock, and self-sufficiency. Limiting the ability to supply one's own food or meaningfully use agricultural land directly contradicts the very purpose for which many of these properties were purchased.

Restricting reasonable agricultural use not only undermines food security and personal sustainability, but it also risks significantly diminishing property values. When properties can no longer be used as originally intended or reasonably expected, the financial impact on owners is substantial. These are life investments for many families, retirement plans, generational properties, and primary residences... not speculative ventures.

Beyond the financial implications, there is a broader concern about rural autonomy. The Cowichan Valley has long been valued for its agricultural heritage and the freedom for residents to steward their land responsibly. Bylaw 4710, as proposed, appears to move away from that foundation rather than support it.

Given the scale of impact this bylaw could have, residents deserve a transparent public hearing where concerns can be voiced and properly considered. Meaningful community consultation is essential before implementing regulations that alter property rights, land use expectations, and long-term investment security.

I respectfully urge the Board to pause advancement, or ideally abolish completely, of Bylaw 4710 and provide the public with the opportunity to participate in an open hearing process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Courtney Cook