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## CVRD bylaw opposition

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From Nick short [REDACTED]

Date Mon 3/30/2026 1:01 PM

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I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw currently being advanced by the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

This bylaw represents a significant overreach of authority into how rural residents live, use their land, and sustain their livelihoods. The fact that it consolidates nine existing zoning bylaws into a single region-wide regulation may be framed as “simplification,” but in practice it creates a blanket framework that risks stripping away the flexibility and diversity that define our communities.

We do not live in this region by accident. We live here because it is rural, diverse, agricultural, and independent. A one-size-fits-all zoning structure imposed across multiple electoral areas does not respect those realities.

My family moved back to my home town specifically because of the rural lifestyle and privacy. I spent years in the city dealing with this type of non-sense and brought my kids back to a place where this type of interference was not an issue - or so I thought. We didn't pay over a million dollars for a small home and commit to a lifestyle of commuting to work for this type of restriction. During a housing crisis where many families are already living in multigenerational households just to not end up homeless you are now proposing stricter regulations.

As a first responder, I am on the front lines and one of the many who deal with the unhoused on a daily basis and making housing more restrictive will only contribute

to furthering the homeless crisis. I would invite the tax-payer funded area directors to go spend sometime on the street so they can see what it's really like out there.

What is most concerning is the process.

You are advancing sweeping changes to land use, density, and permitted uses - decisions that directly affect property rights, housing options, farming viability, and financial stability - without meaningful public hearing and engagement proportional to the impact.

At a time when residents are already dealing with a housing crisis, cost-of-living pressures, and economic uncertainty, introducing restrictive or poorly calibrated zoning changes is irresponsible. Zoning bylaws have the power to regulate density, building size, land use, and even prohibit uses entirely.

These are not minor administrative updates -they are fundamental changes to how people can live on their own land.

Let me be clear:

- This feels like government overreach into rural life.
- It undermines the character of farming and acreage-based communities.
- It risks further tightening affordability and housing options rather than improving them.
- And it is being pushed forward without the level of public accountability this magnitude of change demands.

You were elected to represent the people in your area - not to impose top-down planning decisions that reshape it without consent.

If this proceeds in its current form, I will not remain passive.

I will actively organize, speak out, and vote accordingly in the next election.

I strongly urge you to:

- Pause this process
- Commit to a full, transparent public hearing process
- Reassess the bylaw with genuine input from rural residents, farmers, and property owners

This community is not asking for more regulation.

It is asking to be heard, respected, and left with the autonomy that drew us here in the first place.

Frustrated and disappointed,

Nick Short