

# *Paul Griffiths*

544 Springbok Road  
Campbell River, British Columbia  
CANADA V9W 8A2

Telephone: 250-923-1311  
Email: [pgriff@shaw.ca](mailto:pgriff@shaw.ca)

By email to: [Barry.Penner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Barry.Penner@gov.bc.ca)

December 13, 2009

BC Ministry of Environment  
Room 112, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria BC  
V8W9E2

Attn: Honourable Barry Penner, Minister

Dear Minister,

I must presume that a decision was made not to make the proposed limestone quarry project above Davie Bay on Texada Island “reviewable” under s.6 of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, as I did not receive a reply to my September 16, 2009 letter on this topic.

I understand enquiries are being made about undertaking a karst assessment for the project. As I mentioned in my earlier letter, a karst assessment with a requisite cave component and directed by a qualified professional is vital if BC is to press forward with a policy of adequately protecting its sensitive environments. The caves and other karst resource features above Davie Bay are valuable and vulnerable, and BC should be doing its utmost to protect them. The greater number of features in possible conflict with the quarry project are situated on Crown land.

The Powell River Regional District, Friends of Davie Bay, and local politicians and interest groups support a full assessment.

On November 20, 2009 I wrote to the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) after I learned of the establishment of a “Section 16 reserve” of just 7.8 hectares covering only the area of the known caves. The karst potential and value in this area is so much greater than this minimum, and there are possibly subsurface geo-hydrological connections between the proposed quarry site and the known caves. I made this quite clear in my telephone and email conversations with the ILMB.

I urge government to have the terms of reference for the karst assessment released in the public interest. Also, the duration of the assessment, the timing of the assessment report, the qualifications and competency of the professional for karst, and the report itself.

This is a wonderful opportunity for BC to broadcast to the world the potential of the Davie Bay site, and to champion the protection of sensitive environments.

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It's all the more important given events unfolding at Copenhagen, and the attention on BC in the upcoming Winter Olympic games.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Griffiths

cc: Ms. Lisa Braman, Minister's Assistant, MOE  
Ms. Karen Christie, Project Assessment Director, EAO  
Mr. Ross Douglas, Section Head, Crown Lands & Resources, South Coast Service Centre, ILMB  
Mr. Ed Taje, Senior Inspector of Mines, Southwest, EMPR  
Mr. Blake Fougere, Stewardship Officer, Sunshine Coast Forest District, MFR  
Mr. Frank Ullman, Recreation Officer, South Coast Recreation District, MTCA  
Mr. Nicholas Simons, MLA Powell River-Sunshine Coast  
Mr. Scott Fraser, MLA Alberni-Qualicum

