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March 13, 2008

City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, B.C.

Mayor and Council:

Re: Garden City Lands Block ALC Application

This submission is advanced pursuant to the invitation to the public to make their views known at the public hearings you are currently conducting concerning the block application you are advancing to the BC Agricultural Land Commission to exclude the federally-owned Garden City Lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve.

I wish to reiterate the position I communicated to you when the CLC last applied unsuccessfully to exclude these lands from the Land Reserve. I believe the current application should be rejected as these lands are prime agricultural lands. Moreover, these lands represent a unique opportunity to seize the emerging urban agricultural agenda which can include local, regional, national and international research, education and commercial development. The entire land base should be secured for these and other public agricultural and related uses.

The terms of the March 18, 2005 tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding will not result in an outcome that is in the best interests of my constituents and other citizens of Richmond.

You should know that I met this morning in Ottawa with the Honourable Gerry Ritz, P.C., Minister of Agriculture, together with a representative of Richmond citizens opposed to the planned disposition of the Garden City Lands and we discussed the situation. We are continuing our efforts in Ottawa to ensure that this matter is resolved in a way that benefits the citizens of Richmond.

Again, I reiterate that I do not support your exclusion application.

Yours truly,

John Cummins, M.P.
Delta - Richmond East

cc: BC Agricultural Land Commission