



August 30, 2021

Dear Minister Conroy,

I write to you in my capacity as the Chair of the Silver Star Resort Association (SSRA) established in 2020 under the authority of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, British Columbia.

The Association currently has a 1025 strong paid-up membership made up of homeowners and mostly small local businesses. Our board of directors follow closely what is going on in our community.

Our membership shares concerns articulated to you and your predecessors by the Silver Star Property Owners Association (SSPOA) regarding the impact on the community of continuing to allow an unregulated sewage monopoly to operate in Silver Star Mountain Resort. I refer to the practices of Silverhawk Utilities Inc..

Silverhawk's continued abuse of its position as a monopolistic provider of sewage services negatively impacts those considering significant investment in the area through new home construction and business development, as well as to incumbent rate payers.

What the community needs to make Silver Star Mountain Resort an attractive place to invest is consistency, predictability and transparency in the fees and operations of an essential utility. Silverhawk currently displays none of those attributes.

I will avoid repeating the literary of abusive behaviours Silverhawk have exhibited as I understand you are fully aware of those in great detail thanks to the work of the SSPOA. The SSRA is also aware that after a year of your Ministry agreeing to undertake a review of Silverhawk's business practices and rates, no meaningful progress has been made, to my knowledge.

The SSPOA is best positioned to continue the exhaustive work they have completed on this file and will continue to engage with the community at large. However, the SSRA Board and it's members fully support the work of the SSPOA and we will be encouraging members to join the Enough is Enough campaign instigated by the SSPOA to generate further community support in urging your Ministry to take this mater with all gravitas and move to fair regulation of this important service to the community.

We believe the continued indulgence of an unregulated sewage monopoly will inevitably hinder essential development of Silver Star Mountain Resort with unexpected new "connection" charges stretching deep into five figures for those developing vacant lots. Arbitrary annual increases in both fixed and usage fees in many cases exceed the amounts homeowners pay in Provincial Property Taxes and make Silver Star a less attractive place for wider investment.

We recognize this call to action could easily be written off as a small group of people complaining about sewage charges in a seasonal resort. Any such assumption would be a mistake. The year-round community continues to grow here. Furthermore, the impact Covid pandemic has had on population movement from urban to suburban and rural can be seen in the number of families now calling Silver Star their year-round main residence. We are also aware of other communities in BC that are blighted with the same problem of an unregulated sewage monopoly. Surely it is time to act?

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In closing, we encourage you in the strongest possible terms to address this long outstanding issue and act to regulate privately owned sewage monopolies in British Columbia.

Yours



SSRA

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