Thank you very much for your advocacy on this issue. Adam shares your deep concern for the long-term wellbeing of the forests on Salt Spring Island and will definitely be raising this issue in budget estimates with our colleague Sonia Furstenau. We have been receiving strong advocacy from many parts of British Columbia who are concerned with forest management and logging. Adam has highlighted seeing communities that are so desperate, and no response from government to protect their watersheds, that they are purchasing and protecting land on their own.

We have heard from many people and it’s clear that British Columbians value our forests and want to see responsible, sustainable practices from the forestry industry. Our forestry sector, along with the forests themselves, have become unhealthy and vulnerable over the past several decades. The challenges include widespread mill closures, large-scale exports of raw logs, growing amounts of useable fibre left as waste, intensifying wildfire seasons, pest outbreaks, watershed impacts, habitat degradation and old-growth logging.

Adam and the BC Greens campaigned on a platform that emphasized the importance of innovation and value-added enterprises in wood processing rather than raw log exports. We have reiterated this many times since. We aim to develop a sustainable, second-growth sector in BC - one that is resilient to climate change and forest fires and that can provide meaningful, rewarding employment to local communities and First Nations. We need to manage our forests to protect and foster their economic, ecological, and cultural values. We need to manage them with a long term vision rather than a short term payout.

Adam and the BC Green caucus will be working together to address forestry issues in the coming months. In the budget we pushed for increased funding to implement key changes to forestry and habitat management, and we will be following the continued action on Professional Reliance, which made many recommendations to improve the forestry sector and in particular the Forest and Range Practices Act. We have also coordinated with the Ancient Forest Alliance to help bring awareness to the state of our old-growth forests on Vancouver Island. Adam recently posted a video where he speaks from the heart about our need to protect our forests, habitat and the health of our natural ecosystems. [https://adamolsenmla.ca/old-growth-are-we-going-to-cut-it-all/](https://adamolsenmla.ca/old-growth-are-we-going-to-cut-it-all/)

Going forward we will be collaborating with stakeholders to help build a vision for forestry based in expertise, traditional knowledge, and science. We look forward to examining how policy can be improved to support a resilient, responsible forestry industry.

All the best,

Ryan Clayton | Constituency Assistant

Constituency Office of Adam Olsen, MLA

#215-2506 Beacon Ave, Sidney, BC V8L 4T9
Phone: 250-655-5600 | Fax: (250) 655-7398
[Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)