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MAEVE GILCHRIST -
HARPIST | COMPOSER | EDUCATOR

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DEAR SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE,

I AM WRITING IN SUPPORT OF THE WONDERFUL COMMUNITY MEMBER, ORGANIZER AND SUPPORTER OF THE ARTS, BRENDA SHANNON ADAMS IN HER STAND AGAINST THE POSSIBLE INVASION OF HYDRO QUEBEC'S NORTHERN PASS THROUGH THE BEAUTIFUL EASTON VALLEY.

I MET BRENDA ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO WHEN SHE KINDLY OFFERED THE USE OF HER NEWLY CONSTRUCTED ABBEY AS A RECORDING VENUE FOR A MUSICAL PROJECT IN WHICH I WAS INVOLVED. THIS CHARACTERISTIC BENEVOLENCE IS TYPICAL OF BRENDA'S COMMITMENT TO THE ARTS AND TO HER COMMUNITY. WE WERE RECORDING FOR PURELY EXPERIMENTAL PURPOSES AND FOR THE WEEK WE STAYED THERE, BRENDA HOSTED US, FED AND TOOK CARE OF US IN SUCH A WAY THAT GAVE US COMPLETE CREATIVE FOCUS AND FREEDOM. IT WAS SUCH A GIFT.

I'VE SINCE BEEN BACK TO THE ABBEY A NUMBER OF TIMES TO PERFORM IN HER HOUSE CONCERT SERIES AND THE PLACE HAS CONTINUED TO BE A GIFT TO US MUSICIANS WHO DELIGHT IN THE BEAUTY OF THE SURROUNDINGS AND THE WARMTH OF THE LOCAL AUDIENCE, AND A GIFT TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, BRINGING THEM AN ARRAY OF HIGH QUALITY PERFORMERS IN AN INTIMATE SETTING THAT'S SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE IN A FOR-PROFIT VENUE.

THE AMOUNT OF WORK THAT GOES INTO HOSTING SUCH EVENTS AND BUILDING A COMMUNITY CENTERED AROUND A MUTUAL LOVE OF THE ARTS IS ENORMOUS. I KNOW THAT IT'S TAKEN BRENDA SEVEN PLUS YEARS TO CREATE AN AUDIENCE AND AN AWARENESS OF THE ABBEY CONCERTS. THROUGH HER SELFLESS PERSISTENCE SHE'S CREATED AN ARTISTIC COMMUNITY CENTER THAT'S INSTILLED NEW LIFE INTO THE EASTON VALLEY AND BEYOND.

BY GOING THROUGH WITH THESE NORTHERN PASS PLANS, YOU WOULDN'T JUST BE DESTROYING THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE THAT BRENDA AND HER NEIGHBORS MOVED TO EASTON TO ENJOY; TEARING UP HER CAREFULLY TENDED YARD AND CREATING A CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENT THAT WOULD BE INCREDIBLY INTRUSIVE, DESTRUCTIVE AND DISRUPTIVE OF LOCAL WILDLIFE. YOU WOULD ALSO BE JEOPARDIZING WHAT HAS BECOME THE HEART OF THE LOCAL ARTISTIC SCENE AND AN INVALUABLE MEETING PLACE FOR THE COMMUNITY. IN SUCH POLARIZED POLITICAL TIMES, SURELY WE MUST VALUE A SPACE THAT BRINGS TOGETHER PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS AND POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS TO CHERISH MUSIC AND ART?

PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.

YOURS SINCERELY,

MAEVE GILCHRIST

