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DELIVERED BY HAND

The Right Honourable David Thompson
Prime Minister
The Ministry of Finance
Government Headquarters
Bay Street, St. Michael

Dear Prime Minister Thompson

Re: Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary (GHNS)

I despair for Barbados and Barbadians who have been let down by their leadership.

Our respective footprints on this earth will soon be gone and at some point we have to ask ourselves if we have left a better legacy for those who follow.

In an increasingly over-populated world, those who have had the luxury of being able to travel recognize the priceless value of ever shrinking green spaces and parkland which are inextricably tied to the quality and value of our lives.

While we cannot even imagine the state of affairs that your new government has been left with, we were hoping that your government would finally stand up and recognize the economic and social value of green spaces to a society. Please note this short film which illustrates how this applies to Graeme Hall and Barbados: www.superu.ca/content/425

Over the past 10 years thousands of Barbadians, tourists and schoolchildren have participated in our formal and informal education programmes at Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary. Millions of dollars of Canadian investment has made this possible.

Enclosed is a letter of April 1, 2005, addressed to the former Prime Minister of Barbados outlining our technical & charitable contributions and asking for government leadership in management of the Graeme Hall watershed area as per the recommendations of the \$800,000.00 US ARA Environmental Impact Study.

The ARA study was never released as it was held in "draft" form by government.

My letter was never acknowledged nor did the former Prime Minister of Barbados, despite numerous offers, ever visit the Sanctuary after 12 years and many millions of dollars of investment in preserving precious green space.

Five months before the April 1, 2005 letter to the Prime Minister, pursuant to the attached letter dated November 23, 2004 addressed to the Chief Planning officer, Mark Cummins, and copied to the Prime Minister, we learned of an application for a waterpark development just north of the Sanctuary on government property.

The Prime Minister phoned me personally and advised that he was not aware of any such waterpark proposal and termed the idea "madness." Later, the foreign developer advised that he had already received permission from the government to proceed.

Also enclosed is a letter, dated April 23, 2007, addressed to the Chief Town Planner by Alan Marshall, Director of Friends of Graeme Hall (FOGH). This letter set out FOGH's concerns that the 2003 National Physical Development Plan, Amended, if passed by Parliament would be an open invitation to developers to develop the uplands area which were recommended to be a buffer zone under the ARA Environmental Impact Study.

Despite this plea by FOGH to preserve and protect the last significant green space on the South Coast between the Airport and Bridgetown, and despite the Petition with over 6,000 signatures from Barbadians who support preservation of this area, your government passed this Physical Development Plan.

In addition, while it took the former government over 2 years to complete their own Environmental Impact Study under the guidance of the former Minister of Tourism, Billie Miller and another 3 years to pass the Special Areas Development Legislation, GHNS has not been penalized by the VAT tribunal for refund of VAT payments for monies spent in advance of the government actually passing the legislation.

This means that not only did the VAT tribunal recognize our rights under the legislation but we are scheduled under that legislation as an approved developer.

The frustration continues. Though this is not a large issue of money in relation to the many millions spent to date at Graeme Hall, waiver of purchase transfer tax is specifically set out in the legislation. In order to conclude this

administrative matter our solicitors, Chancery Chambers, over the past several months, have written several letters to the Ministry of Finance (your portfolio) however we have not so much as had the courtesy of a reply. The Ministry's refusal to reply is indicative of a non-supportive and non-constructive process.

While we have slowly increased revenue by 27% year over year for the past three years towards trying to fulfill our goal of self-sustainability, no one individual can stand longer than a generation in the wilderness of environmental preservation without a government-led consciousness that these endeavors are a priority.

Government consciousness and leadership is the only way to leave a legacy for future generations. It cannot come solely from the private sector, as this approach lasts for less than a generation.

As a consequence, shortly I will be asking my management to close the Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary to the general public.

At the same time, given the stakes to the public, I feel I must release all correspondence and a timeline of events to the Barbados media and to all relevant international agencies so that there is clear understanding of what has transpired in Barbados.

I trust you will agree that it is extremely important in a democracy to have such important public and environmental policy issues discussed in a public forum.

If Barbadians and their government ultimately do not believe that preservation of Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary and the surrounding lands are critical to their long term prosperity and well-being, I will accept their decision and move on to more productive and responsive environmental missions.

Millions of dollars of Canadian investment and years of effort by me and others have been totally ignored by government, leaving me no alternative.

I noted with great interest that your governments' throne speech and budget focused on more philanthropic and private investment.

I trust you will know what needs to be done.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter A. Allard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter A. Allard