

December 6, 2021

Board of Directors

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechacko

37 3rd Avenue, PO Box 820

Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0

Re: Rezoning application RZ A-07-21 bylaw 1966, 2021

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in support of the proposed rezoning amendment proposed for 3844 Henry Road – to allow M1A zoning to include crematoria as a permitted use. I understand that the suggested location is in a residential area and that there has been some opposition. I would like to add my voice to the discussion in favour of the proposal.

It is my understanding that the majority of concerns focus on water and waste management issues, potential pollution, and possible changes to community aesthetics. It is difficult for me as a layperson to address the veracity of claims surrounding environmental concerns; however, I trust that the applicants will adhere to all municipal and provincial guidelines surrounding these matters. They will, for example, be bound to follow the *Funeral Services, Cremation, and Interment Act*, governed by Consumer Protection BC, as well as the *BC Environmental Management Act*, which is regulated by the Ministry of Environment. The latter has an office locally and are in a position to address any issues that arise surrounding air quality.

With regard to the claim that the proposed project may change community aesthetic, I would like to point out that individuals engaged in “not in my back yard” politics are in particularly privileged positions. Discussions surrounding where crematoria may be permitted are underpinned by the assumption that everyone has equal access to cremation following death. In reality, current access to cremation services involve significant bureaucratic complications and geographic distance. Many vulnerable groups are unable to practically access cremation services. Members of our Indigenous communities, those with disabilities, and homeless populations, for example, are much less likely to be able to navigate the government regulations surrounding securing permits, may not have the time to take off work to undertake long drives, and may not have access to reliable vehicles with which to make the trip. Providing cremation services locally would significantly increase ease of access and has the potential to meaningfully improve people’s quality of experience following their loss.

I understand that there has been opportunity for community engagement in these processes and am grateful to have been able to participate. If you would like to continue this discussion I can be reached at

Sincerely,

Brie McAloney

1362 Willow Street, Telkwa

