

Law Amendments Committee
Ninth Floor, Joseph Howe Building
1690 Hollis Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia

December 7, 2011

Sent via Fax: 902-424-~~0457~~ 0547

Re: Bill 131

To Whom It May Concern,

Safety of our guests has always been and will continue to be our number one priority of the three Nova Scotia ski areas – Ski Martock, Ben Eoin and Ski Wentworth. We've been strong advocates of helmet usage through our own internal policies for many years. Nova Scotia has the highest helmet usage in the country. It went from 73% two years ago to 88% last season without legislation. This is higher than bicycle helmet usage in Nova Scotia with legislation. We've always promoted the use of helmets at our resorts – offer free helmets with learn to ski and snowboard packages, have mandatory policies in place for freestyle terrain, snow school programs, ski in school programs and our staff.

This will be the most stringent ski helmet legislation – the first of its kind - in the world. Our ski industry in the Maritimes is already tenuous at best with unpredictable weather, increasing power costs and wages. We will need to continue to work with government and industry stakeholders through an ongoing public awareness campaign to help mitigate any decrease in skier visits due to mandatory legislation.

The Nova Scotia ski areas are in favour of continuing to increase helmet usage. We feel we've done a very good job on our own advocating helmets and would continue to do so with or without legislation. We believe more public awareness, not legislation, is the way to move forward considering the relatively small percentage of non-helmet wearing skiers in Nova Scotia. Through further public awareness we believe we would continue to see increased usage without need for more government regulation.

Regards,



Leslie Wilson, President
Ski Wentworth
On behalf of Ski Martock and Ben Eoin