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Mr Chairman & Members of the Law Amendments Committee:

My name is Glenn Myra, a past president of the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors, and my colleague is Tom Giovannetti, also one of our past presidents. We thank you for the opportunity to appear before you and express our views on Bill 94, an act to amend Chapter 1 (1992 supplement) of the Revised Statutes, 1989. The provisions of this bill are of interest to many members of the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors because of the inclusion in this bill of what amounts to legal descriptions of the proposed constituency boundaries.

However, we are concerned about the section in this bill giving the Electoral Officer the power to determine these constituency boundaries in cases of uncertainty. We believe such actions to be beyond the scope of an electoral officer's area of judgement. Such power can only serve to inflame an already sensitive public who will not regard such actions as appropriate for an electoral officer.

The government has, on its staff, a full complement of licenced professionals within the Public Service - that is, the Department of Natural Resources, Survey Division - whose professional education and experience enable them to report on extent of title in Nova Scotia; indeed, they are professionals who have been mandated by an act of this legislature to perform such a function.

Cases of doubt or confusion as to the limits of constituency boundaries could be referred to said licenced professionals by the use of the government's own land surveyors in the Department of Natural Resources, saving time, money and embarrassment to the government; ensuring accuracy, clarity and the elimination of confusion; and, satisfying the public that the matter is being handled by competent and unbiased professionals.

We, myself, my colleague and many members of the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors, thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Yours truly



G. R. Myra, NSLS