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**Sent:**

Irene Lorch-Wauchope [REDACTED]

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**To:**

Office of the Legislative Counsel

**Subject:**

Bill 6, Updated for circulation/ printing

**\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\***

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Re: Bill No. 6

My family and I are appalled by your decision to introduce Bill 6 to repeal the long standing moratorium on fracking and uranium mining in our little province and we ask that you keep the moratorium on fracking (instituted in 2014) and the ban on uranium exploration & mining (since 1981) in place! Health experts from the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment in Nova Scotia, Cape NS, are urging your government to be aware of the tremendous dangers that these activities would inflict on Nova Scotians and our land and water. "The medical evidence is clear and growing—these activities are associated with serious health risks that our communities cannot afford to bear," Dr. Laurette Geldenhuys said in a release.

Fracking has often polluted entire aquifers. The toxic fluids used in fracking can remain trapped underground, with a high chance of contaminating ground water supplies with carcinogens, radioactive materials and heavy metals. This presents significant risks to ground water wells. Over 440,000 Nova Scotians (40 per cent), rely on these wells for their drinking water, increasing their risk of fracking-induced health risks, such as burns, rashes, cancer and congenital defects. Fracking has also led to earthquakes and worst of all, releases tremendous amounts of methane, a dangerously potent greenhouse gas. Fracked shale gas wells may have methane leakage rates as high as 7.9 percent, which would make such natural gas worse for the climate than coal.

But fracking also threatens our climate in another way. To prevent catastrophic climate change, we must leave about 80 percent of proven fossil fuel reserves in the ground. Fracking takes us in the opposite direction, opening up vast new deposits of fossil fuels.

Our narrow window to avoid run-away climate change is closing quickly and most climate scientists agree that the battle is almost lost and that we must now concentrate on **a rapid and sustained reduction of methane** if we want to buy us a bit more time. If the fracking boom continues, oil and gas companies will light the fuse on a carbon bomb that will shatter all efforts to avert climate chaos. Fracking will make meeting our GHG reduction goal in Nova Scotia impossible! No, fracking can not go hand in hand with our climate change policy and considering that Donald Trump is wrecking it in the US, we have to improve on our own reduction efforts.

In regards to the immediate health effects of fracking on humans:

Fracking can release dangerous petroleum hydrocarbons, including benzene and xylene. It also increases ground-level ozone levels, raising people's risk of asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

Wildlife is also in danger. Fish die when fracking fluid contaminates streams and rivers. Birds are poisoned by chemicals in wastewater ponds. And the intense industrial development accompanying fracking pushes imperiled animals out of wild areas they need to survive; this exacerbates the endangered species loss.

Then there is the question of what the purpose of uranium mining in NS would be. Nuclear power plants are very expensive and take too long to build to achieve our emission reduction goals within the short amount of time we have left to avoid run-away climate change. Nova Scotians are certainly not interested in providing uranium for nuclear weapons while at the same time running the risk of destroying our small province! Uranium mining carries the danger of making land and water radioactive and can pollute areas for thousands of years. Our province is too small for such an endeavor! In Saskatchewan where Canada's biggest uranium mines are located, the mines are 600 km from the closest communities; in NS it would be 60 km. Uranium mining leaves behind a pollution legacy that will have to be monitored and cared for thousands of years. How can you even envision taking such a risk for future generations?

Why go for these problematic and dangerous approaches when much better ones are on the horizon? **New generation geo-thermal technology** as developed by the Alberta company Eavor is a game changer in energy production and it is completely sustainable. Your government should focus on researching this option! Nova Scotia could be on the forefront of the emerging revolution in energy production rather than going for dangerous and soon to be outdated technologies.

<https://www.wri.org/insights/next-generation-geothermal-energy-explained>

Another energy revolution on the horizon are titanium based solar panels in Japan which will be 1000 times as powerful than conventional panels. Can you imagine the impact that will have on the world?

<https://unionrayo.com/en/japan-titanium-solar-panel/>

Let's wait a little longer and refrain from hasty and very destructive decisions.

In the meantime, let's focus on lithium battery recycling, build the infrastructure for it and leave the low grade lithium we have in NS in the ground.

Respectfully yours,  
Irene Lorch-Wauchope, MA, MA

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