

From: Denise Forand [REDACTED]
Sent: March 16, 2025 11:01 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill #1

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BILL NO. 1

(as introduced)



*1st Session, 65th General Assembly
Nova Scotia*

To the chair of committee ,

I am writing today out of deep concern regarding the Houston Government's recent legislation granting the ability to remove the Auditor General without cause and to classify any report at a minister's discretion. These measures represent a significant erosion of the principles of transparency and accountability—principles that form the bedrock of any healthy democracy.

Across the world, we have seen democratic institutions come under increasing threat, particularly through efforts to weaken independent oversight and restrict public access to critical information on our Freedom of Information. I never imagined we would see such actions taken here in Nova

Scotia. The idea that a Canadian government can silence the Auditor General, or us the people is one of our most vital checks on power, is deeply troubling and runs counter to the values of openness and accountability that Canadians hold dear.

I recognize the pressures that come with being part of a political party, and I can appreciate the difficult position you may find yourself in. However, there are moments when personal integrity and duty to one's constituents must take precedence over party loyalty. I sincerely hope you will reflect on whether this decision aligns with the values of the people who you serve .

This is not an issue that will simply fade away. The people of Nova Scotia will remember those who stood up for democratic principles and those who remained silent. You still have an opportunity to advocate for a reversal of this decision and to stand up for the transparency and accountability that Nova Scotians expect from their government.

I hope you will consider all these matter's with Bill #1 and many others lately with the seriousness it deserves and take meaningful steps to address theses concerns . We see what is taking place south of us and cannot afford to loose our Democracy and Freedoms of and for the People you Serve.

Sincerely, Denise Forand