

From: Stewart Lucas [REDACTED]
Sent: March 16, 2025 9:42 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel; Rick.burns.mla@gmail.com; PC_Caucus
Subject: Concern about upcoming bills

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Hello,

This is Stewart Lucas of Lucasville.

I have concerns about what I have heard about upcoming bills and I wanted to send this email to inform you of my concerns.

- I would say my biggest concern is in regards to the attempt to overturn the ban on fracking, uranium mining and any other bans on mining. I believe overturning the ban could have major environmental impacts and has the potential to harm communities near potential fracking and mining sites. If the bans are overturned exposure to by-products of fracking and mining could impact air, water and soil for those around them. Harming the communities economically but also health wise. Drinking and crop water can impact human health and that of crops and livestock. Soil quality is important to agriculture. Air quality is important to human health. Health impacts may not be seen for years and proving that health impacts are linked to fracking or mining can be difficult leaving those impacted with little recourse. Historically, it does seem like the communities impacted are those least able to fight back. Poor communities, Black and indigenous communities. I understand the desire to lift the ban to provide economic activity. However, I think the risks are too high. These banned activities represent the past, especially fracking. Natural gas and other fossil fuels are on their way out in terms of use in a global society. In addition to the health impacts and likelihood overturning a fracking ban would have on marginalized communities fossil fuels use will drop in the future. Fracking is a way for Nova Scotia to invest a large amount of time, energy and money in a dying industry. If looking for an increase in economic activity related to energy production there are so many more ways to do it that will be less impactful to Nova Scotians. Expanding the ability to generate solar, wind, hydro and tidal power. These are industries that will continue to grow in the future and are worth investment. Investment in the production of energy in these ways and the installation and maintenance of these facilities which will create many jobs. Also investment into research into these new technologies. Solar, wind, hydro, tidal and energy storage/batteries are all able to be researched further by the many universities here and if we decide to make Nova Scotia in the future of energy production research can also be done at existing and new private companies that will be attracted to our areas, creating further jobs.
- I am pleased that the premier has decided to withdraw a proposal to allow for the firing of the auditor general without cause and the withholding of their reports. The auditor general provides important accountability.

- I hope that there are no changes to the freedom of information act that would make it harder for citizens and press to get access to information, records and documents.
 - As someone who has been involved with universities for most of my adult life I am concerned that there seems to be an attempt to take more control of the universities in the province.
 - I am also concerned that there is an attempt to allow the firing of public servants without cause.
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- I will say that I am pleased that Nova Scotia, the other provinces and the federal government are moving to remove trade barriers within Canada. I think this is good for us. I will include a word of caution that if not done properly removal of these barriers may allow larger corporations from other parts of Canada to step in and destroy smaller Nova Scotian businesses. So steps do need to be taken to protect Nova Scotian industry. In addition we should try to diversify where we get our products from. Try to have a reasonable share of products from Nova Scotia, other parts of Canada, and a variety of countries around the world.

Stewart Lucas

Cheers,

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