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**From:** Audrey Sauder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** March 16, 2025 5:42 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Tim Houston Bill 1

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Audrey Sauder  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

March 16, 2025

His Honour  
The Honourable Mr Savage  
Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

Request to deny royal assent to Bill #1 as presented.

Dear Honourable Mr. Savage. This letter is to request you deny royal assent to Bill #1 as presented by the current government of Premier Tim Houston. I am aware that the aspects pertaining to the Auditor General have been removed from the bill.

Premier Houston originally campaigned on many promises, one of which was a fixed election date. Fast forward to October 27, 2024 and Premier Houston ignores his own law and calls a snap election for November 26, 2024. Premier Houston was well aware of two things: One the Federal Liberal party was at an all time low in popularity, and Two, this short time frame would not give the other political parties time to mount a full campaign. Nova Scotian's forgave him for the about face due to the fact that he campaigned on lower taxes, more doctors, higher wages, housing, the economy, the cost of living and education. His four year economic plan would see record spending by the PCs each year with the government projecting spending of taxpayer money in year one, close to \$17 billion dollars with an estimated revenue of around \$16.6 billion dollars. The only promise he has fulfilled is in spending, and then some. There was no mention at all of any of the proposed changes in Bill 1 and yet in a short time he has managed to pull this all together. The question we should be asking is - Was this being worked on prior to calling the vote? The true Premier Houston's agenda started to show when he took out a full page ad in the Chronicle Herald on January 25, 2025 stating "We are blessed with countless opportunities. These opportunities are untapped today because past governments lacked the courage to have important conversations. Instead, they bowed to local special interest groups. I have no intention of bowing to special interests". Premier Houston's Bill 1 shows the extent he plans on taking to

get his way. With a majority win, the only recourse that we have is to appeal to the public through media outrage (which can be seen on social media), or writing letters as I am doing now.

Clause 16 amends the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to a) restrict applicants for access to a record from requesting records without sufficient particulars; and b) allow the head of a public body to disregard frivolous or vexatious requests for access to record. Clause 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31(?), 32, 33 and 34 are not specific enough in their definitions. Who decides what is frivolous or vexatious? Again clause 29 restricting applicants for access to a record from requesting records from a municipality without sufficient specificity? Who decides and what parameters are set forth. Clause 30 again with frivolous or vexatious requests. And, on and on. And why does clause 67 allow any power created in the amendments to the Freedom of Information and Protection of the Privacy Act, Municipal Government Act and Privacy Review Officer Act to be exercised in respect of outstanding requests and complaints made before the coming into force of that power? What is this government trying to hide? Where is the democracy in holding our government accountable?

Clause 35 replaced petitions to the Governor in Council for the granting of a right of way across private land for mining, quarrying, farming or forestry with applications to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. (Again, preparing the groundwork for Bill 6).

Clause 36 provides that unresolved petitions made to the Governor in Council before the coming into force of this Act for a right of access are terminated and of no effect.

In summary, the changes to the Freedom of Information Act would be changed to restrict its use and to make it retroactive. The public would have very little access to information, and will only be allowed information based on the current Government judging it to be frivolous or vexatious.

The petitions to grant right of way to minerals is just the start of Premier Houston's grand plan to allow fracking industries, uranium, gold and other metal mining. Premier Houston's ad in the Chronicle stated that he would not bow down to special interest groups, but he is doing just that, only it is not his constituents, but out of province independent mining companies that he is bowing down to. .

Thank you for your consideration.  
Audrey Sauder