

[REDACTED]

From: Austen Gilliland [REDACTED]
Sent: March 17, 2025 12:25 PM
To: Premier; Claudia Chender; Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Premier Houston, please reconsider your positions on resource extraction, public servant job security and university funding

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Dear Premier Houston,

I came to Nova Scotia in 1997 to attend university and I stayed because I loved it – the beautiful environment, the wonderful people, the history of working together to survive through thick and thin. I love it so much that I stayed and started my family here, while working in a public-service adjacent profession.

It is, then, perhaps unsurprising that I find myself extremely concerned about what I see as imprudent moves on the part of your government. I am writing to protest three items in particular.

1. Lifting bans on resource extraction

Put simply, uranium extraction and fracking will irreversibly damage our environment. As climate change continues, we should be doing everything in our power to preserve our province – not squeezing it as hard as we can to extract every last monetizable resource before we discard it in a heap of dust. Let's put our efforts toward building renewable resources instead.

2. Firing public servants without cause

Everyone deserves job security. Firing public servants without cause does nothing but put people out of work and sow discontent and mistrust of the very government of which you are the head. Freedom of information laws exist for a reason. The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner provides important government oversight. Please let these public servants do their jobs without fear of reprisal.

3. Giving the provincial government power over universities

Universities and post-secondary institutions are supposed to be places of free-thinking inquiry, where young people and great thinkers alike have the opportunity to learn, grow and change. I'm all for public accountability and knowing how and where provincial money is spent, but just because you write the cheque doesn't mean you get to dictate what university students learn. If you want Nova Scotia to be a place where innovation and creativity drive our future success, you cannot limit what and how people learn at university.

Please remember that as an elected official, you are supposed to serve the will of the people – not the other way around. These policies are not what I want and don't reflect a province I want to live in. Please

reconsider your positions and work toward building a future that we can ALL be proud of, in the province that we love.

Regards,
Austen Gilliland

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