From:

Elizabeth Peirce

Sent:

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To:

Office of the Legislative Counsel

Subject:

Bill 24

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Dear Public Bills committee,

I am writing to express my concern over what the PC government proposes in Bill 24 respecting municipal government. The Union of NS Municipalities has called this bill "tremendously concerning" as it gives the province the power to override municipal decisions on issues such as transportation and other community infrastructure and then force the same municipalities to cover the costs.

Good governance at both municipal and provincial levels requires ongoing public consultation and feedback; to take these elements away, as Bill 24 proposes, is deeply undemocratic.

Former municipal councillors, now MLAs, among them Tim Outhit, Tom Taggart and Danielle Barkhouse, should have particularly strong reservations about this bill. Why have municipal government at all if the province won't allow it to function as it should, representing the interests of our communities?

I would urge the committee not to pass Bill 24 as it stands. We need strong municipalities to represent Nova Scotians in their home communities without threats of interference from the province.

Elizabeth Peirce

Elizabeth Peirce (she/her)

## Writing, editing, gardening

I acknowledge with gratitude that I live and work in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people.