

**From:** Kathy Richards [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** March 24, 2025 4:05 AM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** I do not support Bill 24 ...

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Dear Members of the Public Bills Committee,

I am writing today, as I have serious concerns about Bill 24 and the overwhelming legislative powers it will grant the provincial government, at the expense of the municipality's choices and independence. I strongly urge you not to vote for this bill.

The municipalities are better equipped to deal with decisions on transportation and infrastructure within their municipality. They have the experience, the know how and the ability, as well as the connection with the citizens to know what is needed. This also takes away the citizen's voices, when they speak up about concerns they have about developments and infrastructure in their area that will have an impact on their lives. Who is going to listen to the people when they have serious issues and legitimate concerns? The province does not seem to be able to hear the people's voices now!

I feel this is not, nor should it ever be, the concern of the provincial government! The province has enough roadways, bridges, and infrastructure to concern itself with!

Giving the Public Works Minister the authority to order any municipality in the province to build or remove infrastructure is a downward spiral. Allowing the Minister to then bill the municipality for projects they may not support or be able to afford is an irresponsible way to govern. It's no wonder that the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities has deemed some of the clauses in Bill 24 "tremendously concerning."

By voting for this bill, you are voting to take the "joint" out of the Joint Regional Transportation Agency. That is not cooperation and is not how we work together! Nova Scotians will not support over reach or interference by the provincial government on municipal decisions.

Nova Scotians have proudly spoken up against Bills 1, 6, 11, 12, and 36. I have been impressed with the knowledge, the inspiration and the dedication with which they have voiced their concerns. It is very troubling that this government has ignored almost all of their concerns. You may not be paying attention to us now, but come next election, you will! As we will not forget who has been eroding our democracy. Taking away the rights of Nova Scotians bit by bit. My biggest question is to what end? You are not the same Conservative Party, I used to vote for.

Some may believe that the party does not matter, but the party matters very much when they are threatening our democracy, eroding our rights and that is exactly what is happening here. All of these bills take away the rights of Nova Scotians!

You have heard from many Nova Scotians and have not listened. That is your job to listen to the people you represent!

This is still a democracy and we will continue to voice our concerns! That is still our right!! There is no obvious reason to be taking away these rights that Nova Scotians have fought hard for. It is just a grab for power! A way to consolidate it and to exclude community input! We will not condone it! We did not vote for this and we were not consulted on any of it! Could this be why Tim Houston needed a super majority? So all of these changes can be pushed through, at lightning speed, as they were likely all ready to go! You must have known they would be unpopular! At least that is the way it seems to this observer!

So, is this what the Conservative Party is now? You no longer are interested in hearing your constituents' concerns? You are just going to tow the party line? You might like to rethink which direction you want to go with these new party lines. I will certainly never vote Conservative again in my lifetime!

As George Orwell once warned us. "We know that no one ever seizes power with the intention of relinquishing it."

Sincerely,

Kathy Richards