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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 24, 2025 12:28 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 24

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Public Bills Committee Members

Dear Committee Members,
I have only recently become aware of the content of Bill 24 and am concerned about its implications.

While I am relieved that the current government appears to be taking a long overdue more serious interest in transportation issues I am deeply perturbed at the overreach of power that the bill embodies. Municipal councils, as several MLAs already know from direct experience, play a vital role in staying in close touch with the concerns of local residents. The frequency and transparency of municipal council meetings allow councils to maintain a regular dialogue with residents. Sadly, the recent pattern of the Public Bills Committee routinely forwarding unmodified bills despite detailed and well-informed critiques from private citizens and community groups suggest that the current government is inclined to exploit the exceptional circumstances of its super-majority to assume equally exceptional political powers.

Systemic shifts in the political power structure need to be examined very carefully. Centralizing power, as we see all too vividly in other jurisdictions, always diminishes democratic institutions and serves to stifle public participation. I hope that this will be a case where the present committee shifts from its present pattern of rubber-stamping government bills and remove the threat to the autonomy of municipal councils embodied in Bill 24.

Sincerely,
Gillian Thomas

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]