

To Whom it May concern,

I am writing about an issue that I feel threatens our democracy and that is the use of omnibus bills, those that cram a variety of bills and/or amendments, into one bill.

The omnibus **Bill 127 (Protecting Nova Scotians Act)** is my current concern. While there are some aspects of this bill that sound reasonable and helpful for actually protecting Nova Scotians, my particular concern is for **Part II** of this act which describes amendments to the **Crown Lands Act**. It is upsetting to read that the amendments will make it an **offense** to "block, obstruct the use of, impede access to" Crown Land, for instance, a forest access road. In addition, it states that any structure and contents on such a site may be demolished without notice, at the expense of whoever put it there. Anyone found in contravention can be fined \$50,00 and/or 6 months in jail.

These changes appear to criminalize peaceful protest by those who wish to protect forests, lands and water. In addition, it appears that Treaty rights and indigenous sovereignty are being threatened.

The timeline for the movement of Bill 127 through the legislative is **extremely rushed**:

First Reading: September 23

Second Reading Debates: September 24

Second Reading Passed: September 24

Public Bills Committee Meeting Date: September 29

The democratic process is being short-circuited and opportunities for public opinion to comment on bills is seriously threatened. More consultation is necessary.

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