

To the Public Bills Committee

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To the Public Bills Committee.

I am writing to oppose the amendments to the Crown Land Act specifically Bill 127, the so-called 'Protecting Nova Scotians Act'. The changes to the Crown Lands Act included in this bill are not about protecting Nova Scotians, least of all people who camp out on logging roads, doing the work DNR should be doing to protect biodiversity. These changes to the law are about limiting the public to participate in protecting special wild places in Nova Scotia, her forests and her bio-diversity.

We have the right to transparent fair process and that begins with meaningful consultation not heavy handed autocratic punishment. Inflicting a 50,000\$ fine and a 6 month jail sentence is not the way for a democratic government to deal with conflict. That's what dictatorships do. Your government has promised to protect 20% of the land base by 2030. Conservationists, naturalists and climate activists have given you places that scientific research has identified as being excellent candidates for such protection. One of these areas is the Proposed Goldsmith Lake Wilderness Area. Citizen scientists have done the work identifying, locating and documenting multiple SAR in that area. So why implement antagonistic laws? Why exacerbate conflict? There is another way. Ask us for in-put, include us in discussions and consultation as we invite you to fair and transparent negotiations. We need to talk about this and we need to come to a consensus following the principles of democratic debate.

Include us don't exclude us.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Kenny