

To The Public Bills Committee regarding Bill 127, Protecting Nova Scotians Act,

I would like to respectfully request that members of the committee seriously consider the many negative ramifications of this Bill and do not send it on as is. It is NOT protecting we Nova Scotians at all, but protecting the Forestry Industry instead.

This current government of ours really does not care about protecting Nova Scotians, because if it did it would NEVER allow the Forestry Industry to do what it does by way of all the horrendous clearcuts our little province is now inundated with (please check out aerial views of NS to clearly see how very little is left now of our beautiful Acadian forests. It is both shocking and heartbreaking), as well as the yearly aerial spraying of carcinogenic glyphosate over vast areas to further wipe out our hardwood trees (including our beloved Sugar Maple trees, of which are now endangered) ...and of which this spray season this government has even decided that we Nova Scotians do not even have the right to know where this will be sprayed in order to try to protect ourselves and our loved ones from this cancer-causing spray and its other well known negative-to-human-health side effects. (And what this spray does to our already suffering wildlife is beyond cruel. Can you imagine having this poison rained down on you? And having your only food source coated in it, and then all the amphibians who breathe through their skin basically being slowly suffocated to death by it). It is not rocket science to see here that in fact Premier Houston is clearly ONLY looking out for best interests (\$\$\$) of the Forestry Industry and not Nova Scotians!! This is a blatant LIE to say he want to protect Nova Scotians, when in reality this Bill is just being pushed to try to shut down the ability for we citizens of this province to fight back in the only ways we have that seems to have any impact on the Forest industry and, thus, our government. This Bill is ACTUALLY PUTTING OUR HEALTH AT RISK by this continued cutting of old growth forests and yearly aerial spraying of poison! We are in a CLIMATE EMERGENCY! Although I know others sending in emails of opposition to the Bill have mentioned these following points below already, I feel I must reiterate again here as they are so critically important for this Committee to please please keep in mind:

-old growth forest is a critical player in stabilizing weather extremes, replenishing the water table, housing water in its plants and soil that help deter wildfire, and is the largest sequester of carbon that we have.

-killing all the undergrowth and hardwoods with glyphosate spraying creates a huge fire risk, as does putting lumber equipment and workers in the dead and now even more bone dry undergrowth of sprayed forests to work. (Glyphosate is a desiccant!)

- between the government's recent actions of not protecting what they said they would, this horrific yearly poisoning of Nova Scotians with spraying (and with this Bill basically cutting off our ability to even protest against it. Yet we are supposed to be a DEMOCRACY I thought?!), this no longer informing us of where and when spraying is occurring (so we can't even try to protect our water sources, not to mention ourselves and our loved ones), allowing industry to go in and continue working, yet keeping citizens out, and now trying to basically sneak and rush in these Crown Land changes (as well as so many other changes that benefit Forestry Industry ONLY) so that most Nova Scotians don't even realize what is

happening, and then taking away any means we may have to protest the government's behavior. This is all outrageous! Just so very wrong and unethical. Not to mention it is UNDEMOCRATIC.

Premier Houston has no interest in protecting we Nova Scotian citizens. He only is protecting the Forestry Industry with this Bill. This is what it all clearly boils down to. Sad truth of it all is that this Premier is owned by the Irvings and other behemoth ecocidal corporations who give not one damn about anything except how much money they can suck out of our poor little beleaguered province.

I, along with many other Nova Scotians, beg this committee to please PLEASE do not send Bill 127 on as is. As has been pointed out in other emails being sent in with regards to this extremely concerning and worrying Bill, there is no benefit to these changes that isn't already in place and there is no use of Crown Lands that warrants the penalties laid out in this Bill. Please leave us the very few means we have left to protest a system that is destroying and poisoning our land, our waters, and ourselves (and future generations), and all for the sake of profit. Please. 🙏

Sincerely,

Carol A Smith

Bridgewater, NS