
From: Mark Ashworth <ashworths.england@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 4:25 PM
To: Office
Subject: Comments on Bill No. 6

Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my extreme disappointment (and annoyance) at the proposed legislation to ban high volume hydraulic fracturing of onshore wells. I have been following the impressive work carried out by Dr Wheeler and the panel, and I very much welcomed the balanced approach and content of their report. In making this decision, it appears that the government has chosen to ignore the work done by the panel and instead has responded with a 'knee-jerk' reaction to the 'no frack' lobby groups content to adopt a 'NIMBY' approach to Nova Scotia industrial and energy development.

I love living and working in this province, but I am worried that unless the government allows industry and individuals to prosper by seeking to develop our energy industry, the province will continue to move ever closer to being nothing more than a provincial retirement home funded only by federal handouts, 50 mile yard sales, farm markets, government paving projects and an unpredictable tourism industry. The people of Nova Scotia (and in particular, the young people of Nova Scotia) deserve better than this !

My 18 year old son is just about to begin a 3 year degree course studying Petroleum Engineering at the Cape Breton University. He is full of enthusiasm and keen to learn all about exploration and production techniques. He was asking me why Nova Scotia hasn't looked to develop its resources and is now banning a technique used all over the world that may bring wealth and opportunity to the people of Nova Scotia. I couldn't really answer his question, except to say that it is policy / politics directed by fear and conjecture as opposed to technical knowledge and good judgement.

As a result of this unfortunate decision, I suspect that my son will be yet another young person forced to leave Nova Scotia in order to make a decent living and pursue his ambitions. I feel that this is very unfair and fundamentally wrong that laws are being put in place that make it more difficult for young people and talented individuals to prosper in this province. It is a message to Nova Scotians, other Canadians and the people around the world that we are content to be a "have-not" province and happy to allow our young talent to leave the province.

I recognise that many people in the province have concerns about the dangers of fracturing wells (and development of Nova Scotia's resources in general), but to close the door entirely is not the answer. Education and further research is the key so that we can develop our resources to allow the people of this province to prosper.

In passing this legislation, it will be a sad day for Nova Scotia and in particular for the young talent that would love to live and work in this province.

Mark Ashworth