

Oct. 26th, 2019

To the Sustainable Development Goals Act (Bill 213) committee,

I am writing to give feedback on Bill 213 following the second reading. I am a biology PhD student at Dalhousie University who grew up in Pictou County and I, like many Nova Scotians, hope that the province will legislate bold climate goals. I believe that there are many others like me in Nova Scotia who are not necessarily experts on climate science themselves, but who want to ensure that we are doing our utmost to follow the recommendations of climate scientists.

I would like to thank the committee for listening to the feedback from Nova Scotians regarding this important topic. It is refreshing to see that Nova Scotia is on the cusp of legislating the most ambitious climate goals in Canada, specifically by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 53% below 2005 levels by 2030.

This proposed goal is close to the recommended target outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). However, this goal overlooks the fact that countries that produce a disproportionate amount of greenhouse gases, and that have the monetary ability to implement change, need to aim for higher reductions in emission levels. It is important to appreciate that this perspective has been reiterated by both the IPCC and the Paris Agreement.

In line with this thinking, the Ecology Action Centre's research indicates that Nova Scotia needs to aim for a 58% reduction of greenhouse gases below 2005 levels by 2030 for the province to contribute its fair share. I know that the Ecology Action Centre is also providing feedback on this bill and I would like to add my voice as an individual in support of their argument.

This is a pivotal time for legislating new climate goals and Nova Scotia has the opportunity to establish climate goals that could set a precedence for the rest of Canada. I agree with the principle outlined in the Act that describes the climate crisis as a global emergency. However, if this Act is indeed addressing a global emergency, then it must include goals that are in line with the IPCC's minimum requirements for countries that disproportionately produce emissions. With this in mind, I urge the committee to follow the EAC's recommendations, which are consistent with the spirit of the IPCC's outlined requirements for keeping global temperature rise below 1.5°C.

Thank you for your time,

Gavin Douglas

