

[REDACTED]

From: sandra spicer [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 1:35 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear MLA'S,

I am writing to you today to express my concern around Bill 4 – The Biodiversity Act. Landowners in my area are afraid that this bill takes away their rights to manage their own land. I understand from private landowners in my area that the threat of big fines and lack of clear rules will force them shut down public access to their land. That is a shame. I'm from Pictou County and use a lot of private land to (hike, cycle, hunt, fish snowmobile and/or ATV). Landowners have been great, they let us use their land as long as we don't leave a mess. My fear is that Bill 4, will force my neighbors to restrict access to their land because this bill creates too big of a risk for them.

Please stop this from becoming law so that we can continue to enjoy the land in this area. As a land user I oppose Bill 4.

Thank you,

Sandra Spicer

Concerns with Bill 4

1. THERE IS NO CLEAR, STATED PURPOSE FOR BILL 4

There is no, clear stated purpose for the Act. Why does this Act exist? A bill to "protect biodiversity" is so vague that it could mean anything. Unlike Acts to protect "Species at Risk" or establish "Parks and Protected Places", this Bill speaks of nothing specific and threatens all sorts of specific consequences for landowners without clear goals to follow. It mentions animals, plants and organisms as comprising our biodiversity without indicating any priority or

value to them based on any factor such as ecological importance or prevalence. Is one spore the same as another spore? Are some spores worth protecting while others aren't? Who gets to decide?

TAKE ACTION

2. BILL 4 APPLIES TO ALL LAND IN NOVA SCOTIA, NOT JUST THE CROWN LAND.

There are three parts to the Bill that impact private land ownership.

1.

1. **Establishment of Biodiversity Management Zones (BMZ).** The bill says the Minister can establish a BMZ with the consent of the private landowner. It then says the BMZ “may include” a series of elements including compensation but doesn't compel them to be part of every agreement.
2. **Issue an Emergency Order.** There are no details about what circumstances or reasons could trigger an Emergency Order. The Minister could issue one at anytime, for any piece of private land for any reason under the umbrella of “conservation of biodiversity in the Province”. This undefined power could be used by Activists to pressure the Minister to issue an Emergency Order for any sort of perceived biodiversity risk which would limit a landowner's use of their property and result in costs and loss of land use for the landowner.
3. **Limitless Power to Regulate Private Lands.** The bill gives the government unlimited power to prohibit any activities that affect natural living things on privately owned lands. These activities could require a permit or be banned altogether. This can be done through blanket regulations that apply province-wide: no BMZ or Emergency Order is required.

3. BILL 4, THE BIODIVERSITY ACT IS A DREAM OF THE HALIFAX ACTIVISTS.

They have been trying for a decade to gain full control of any land use activities in Nova Scotia. That's what this is all about. They want to stop all natural resource economic activity and this will give them a tool to do so. If you use your land now for a productive activity such as farming or forestry or would like to in the future, Bill 4 will make it a lot more difficult and costly.

4. RESTRICTING PUBLIC ACCESS

Nova Scotia's landowners have a long tradition of letting the public use their land for recreation. Whether that's for hiking or cycling, hunting or fishing, ATV'ing or snowmobiling, recreational users have always respected the landowner's generosity. Sadly, Bill 4 will force many landowners to restrict access to their land out of fear that

unlimited public access will allow activists to search for signs of animals, plants and organisms that could result in the application of Bill 4 and limit the productive use of their land.

5. GOVERNMENTS ONLY HIDE THINGS THAT ARE DAMAGING. WHERE ARE THE REGULATIONS THAT WOULD IMPLEMENT BILL 4?

Landowners should be worried. When the Government won't provide the details upfront it means they are hiding something. When they won't tell you the rules but will tell you the fine could be a million dollars for breaking them, landowners should be scared. What will a landowner be responsible for? What is an offence? A Bill without Regulations is a threat. Worse, putting all of the discretionary power in the hands of a Minister who is susceptible to political and activist pressures isn't the way to plan for the long-term welfare of any land.

6. WHY RUSH BILL 4?

Our land isn't going anywhere. Landowners aren't going to pick up and leave Nova Scotia. The Activists will tell you they have waited too long. Well too bad. This rush to appease the Activists and pass an ill-thought piece of legislation is wrong. It's a complicated subject with many rights, users and interests. Take the time to consult and establish a harmonious path forward where private landowners can have confidence their rights are respected, and their land won't be used for some political agenda. This needs to be done before the bill becomes law, not after.

[MLA CONTACT INFORMATION](#)

[HAVE YOUR SAY ON BILL 4 AT LAW AMENDMENTS](#)

[EXAMPLE LETTERS FOR LANDOWNERS / USERS](#)

Take Action

If you care about your land, your rights and your ability to enjoy private land in Nova Scotia, have your voice heard.

Stop Bill 4 – Before it Stops You!



Make your voice heard

Here are a few ways that you can make your voice heard on Bill 4. MLA's need to understand your worries and concerns about this bill. Please do one or more of the following:

1. Write/ Call your MLA to express your concerns around Bill 4. ([MLA Contact Information](#)). Tell them:
 - - This Act puts control of YOUR land in the hands of Activists and politicians and that is not acceptable.
 - Your landowner rights are NOT being protected; they are being stepped on.
 - This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that allow for the Minister to issue an order limiting what you can do on your land.
 - This Act could force you to restrict or shut down public access to your land.
2. Register to appear before Law Amendments Committee on Bill 4: Call the Office of legislative Counsel to register. Phone: [902-424-8941](tel:902-424-8941). This should be done immediately. A date has not been announced for these presentations, but the committee is accepting requests to present.
3. Forward a written submission to the Law Amendments Committee on Bill Submit by email: office@novascotia.ca
4. Write/ Call your local councillor – Tell them you want your local council to express opposition to Bill 4 to the provincial government
5. Post your views on Facebook and Twitter. Post a message expressing your opposition to Bill 4.
6. Write a response to MLA posts on The Biodiversity Act. Many MLA's posted messages when the Act was introduced last week. Write a comment on their Facebook post expressing your opposition to the Bill.
7. Write a letter to the editor in your local paper.
8. Call into a radio call-in show
9. Post signs your property- Stop Bill 4

[MLA CONTACT INFORMATION](#)

[HAVE YOUR SAY ON BILL 4 AT LAW AMENDMENTS](#)

[EXAMPLE LETTERS FOR LANDOWNERS / USERS](#)

Example Letters to MLA

COPY AND PASTE AS NEEDED

FROM LANDOWNER

Dear _____

I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own xx acres in xxxx County. I use my land now for xxxxx. I have plans to use it for xxxx in the future. Nobody cares more about my land than I do. If Bill 4 passes, I

am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land. My family has owned for xxx years, we pay our taxes and take care of our land.

As my MLA, I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. I let my neighbours on my property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 4 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can and can't do on my land.

Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.

Thank you,

FROM LAND USER

Dear _____

I am writing to you today to express my concern around Bill 4 – The Biodiversity Act. Landowners in my area are afraid that this bill takes away their rights to manage their own land. I understand from private landowners in my area that the threat of big fines and lack of clear rules will force them shut down public access to their land. That is a shame. I'm from xxxxx and use a lot of private land to (hike, cycle, hunt, fish snowmobile and/or ATV). Landowners have been great, they let us use their land as long as we don't leave a mess. My fear is that Bill 4, will force my neighbours to restrict access to their land because this bill creates too big of a risk for them.

Please stop this from becoming law so that we can continue to enjoy the land in this area. As a land user I oppose Bill 4.

Thank you,



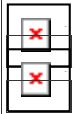
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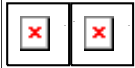
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Show Your Support

SIGN UP AND POST A MESSAGE TO SUPPORT THE COALITION AND STOP BILL 4.

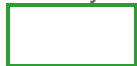
1. **Danny & Diana Hirtle** on March 19, 2021 at 6:24 pm

As a very concerned private land owner ,1300+ acres of private land that we have cared for centuries ! There are many loopholes in this bill 4. We do NOT want to be told what we can and cannot do on our own forest land . What the government wants to do with crown land is one thing but no one should be able to dictate what activity we do on our own land that we have nurtured and cared for .If this bill passes no one will have permission to trespass on any of our wood lots , STOP BILL 4!



2. **Cal Boudreau** on March 19, 2021 at 6:50 pm

Nobody will take care of our land better than us



3. **Jeremy** on March 19, 2021 at 7:33 pm

We need to stand together and stop this this is a great website if we all stand together we have a shot at this! I heat my home and family with our woodlot and i refuse to change that!



4. **Gregory** on March 19, 2021 at 7:39 pm

There is no way this is for the environment. They just want control over land that ppl PAID for and pay taxes...no no no this CANNOT HAPPEN!



5. **Rick Hicks** on March 19, 2021 at 7:47 pm

No one should be able to tell me how to use my land, this is just a money grab from politicians.



6. **Glenn Wile** on March 19, 2021 at 7:51 pm

This is another way of inciting violence. Private land owners will fight to protect their rights to their own land. Do we not have to pay our property tax to maintain ownership?



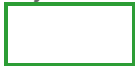
7. **Gerald veinot** on March 19, 2021 at 9:22 pm

this is the way Hitler would have done this kind of act



8. **Scott Dodge** on March 19, 2021 at 10:04 pm

The gov't needs to stay out of everyone's business, and the money that is generated from everyone is a lot of jobs and taxes



9. **Chris** on March 19, 2021 at 10:09 pm

If you read this bill 4 it is almost a Carbon copy of UN Agenda 2030. It is said that over 500 Mayors across Canada have signed onto this UN Agenda 2030. Between Carbon taxes and the massive Inflation we are seeing People are struggling big time. We have lost so many of our Rights this all has to be stopped, I am sick and tired of all this Globalist BS. We have lost our sovereignty. Wake up people.



10. **Guy leblanc** on March 19, 2021 at 10:19 pm

The Elected are here and appointed to do our bidding, if this is passed this proves the Country is turning towards a Dictatorship Government. They as in Ottawa have been and are slowly but surely removing the rights of Canadians in a sneaky round about way and the Meek are all to easy to fool.



11. **Julia McMillan** on March 19, 2021 at 10:37 pm

We do not support this bill, Government has overreached with this one.



12. **Dennis Beaver** on March 19, 2021 at 11:07 pm

Government officials were supposedly our representatives to express our views and protect our rights. This concept has vanished long ago, and they are now arrogant dictators with only their own agendas in the forefront. They must be held accountable, and stopped



13. **Paula Bowden** on March 19, 2021 at 11:09 pm

This is so wrong! Our land is our land, not the governments! We do not want this Bill 4 passed. I thought the government was there to serve us, the people, not be told we cannot do what we want with our land. We pay taxes on this land, what the hell!



14. **Jeff Gee** on March 19, 2021 at 11:16 pm

This Bill goes above and beyond! Totally don't support it whatsoever. As a small Woodlot owner 35 acres I bought this land for my enjoyment and others. It has a multi use trail through it which I continue and always will allow others to enjoy too! Don't take my Happy Stress free place away!



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