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From: Bridget Roy [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 7:29 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Biodiversity Act

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

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To whom it may concern,

As a private landowner in Nova Scotia, we have significant concerns about the proposed Biodiversity Act and impact it could have on our ability to manage our private land. Our concerns are:

Private Landowner Rights – We believe this act should take a crown land first approach; private land should be fully voluntary. The “Biodiversity Emergency Order” removes the voluntary aspect for private landowners in the Biodiversity Act

Penalties and Fines – Fines are not consistent with other legislation and are highly punitive (up to 1 million dollars) and should be aligned to mirror the Environmental Act

Education –The definition, identification, and protection of Biodiversity is extremely complex. Training of Officers who will be enforcing the Biodiversity Act is paramount.

Stakeholder Engagement – Consultation has failed to reach all impacted stakeholders. We believe that all impacted stakeholders (Agriculture, Fruit Growers, Christmas Tree Growers, etc) need to be consulted before passing the Biodiversity Act in the house

Minister’s Power – This legislation gives the Province and the Minister overarching and unfettered power across Private Land, regardless of private landowner wishes. There is no need for this.
Our request is that the Biodiversity Act is made to affect Crown Land only and is sent to all stakeholders for consultation with all amendments and changes included before going before the house.

Sincerely, Bridget Purcell

Sent from my iPhone