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March 22, 2021

Honourable Chuck Porter
Minister of Lands and Forestry
58 Gerrish Street
P.O. Box 3873
Windsor, NS
B0N 2T0

Via email: chuck@chuckporter.ca and legc.office@novascotia.ca

Subject: Bill 4 Undermines Private Forest Landowner Rights

Dear Minister Porter:

We are writing to you on behalf of all private forest landowners across Canada and in support of the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners. The Canadian Federation of Forest Owners (CFFO) is extremely concerned about Bill 4: To Conserve the Biodiversity of Nova Scotia. We believe it is contrary to the very foundation of the private forest landowner model: our independence.

Today more than 25 million hectares of Canada's managed forest land are privately owned; 80% of which is comprised of small, family-owned private woodlots. The role of CFFO and its members is to promote the economic and social interests of Canadian private forest landowners in sustainable management. We strive to balance the public interest and private property rights within a policy and incentive framework that fosters responsible stewardship.

No one cares more about the inter-generational and sustainable management of their lands than the thousands of private forest landowners and their families across Canada. Over 65 percent of Nova Scotia's land is privately owned, in fact in the province alone there are more than 40,000 landowners.

Bill 4 or its like does not exist anywhere else in Canada and with good reason – it disregards the fundamental rights of private land ownership, providing unwarranted access for groups with less scrupulous motives to access private lands forcing the landowners into a situation where they may have to restrict all access to their lands.

Private forest lands are already highly regulated. Our role as private forest landowners is to manage forests for the long-term, provide recreational opportunities where available, all the while providing timber to local processors and eking out enough income to keep our forest enterprises afloat. We trust your government shares these values; and if so, we urge you to take the time to consult with landowners to develop a more harmonious



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and respectful approach; and seek a better path forward that both respects our fundamental rights and supports landowners with adequate compensation when these rights are infringed.

In your recent news release ([March 16, 2021](#)), you specifically recognize that private woodlots are vital to maintaining healthy forests and a strong economy. Undermining our basic rights as private landowners will only serve to limit our ability to achieve these goals. You can learn more about CFFO and our members at [forestowners.ca](#).

We would like the opportunity to discuss our concerns with you in more detail, and at the very least, request that you not rush Bill 4. It's too important not to get it right.

Sincerely,

Christopher Lee
Managing Director
Canadian Federation of
Forest Owners

Domenico Iannidinardo
Chair, CFFO
Vice President, Forest & Logistics
and Chief Forester
Mosaic Forest Management

Susannah Banks
Vice Chair, CFFO
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