

From: Tufts Forestry Services <tuftsforestry@eastlink.ca>
Sent: March 26, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4 - The Biodiversity Act

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Having reviewed Bill 4, The Biodiversity Act (in its original state) it strikes me as a very wide ranging and open ended piece of legislation. As an owner of several small woodlots in Colchester, Cumberland and Hants counties, that total approximately 900 acres, I am greatly concerned about the intent behind this Bill. My family has owned and managed these properties for forest product development for many years. As a forestry company we have also managed numerous properties for other small woodlot owners throughout the Province. We have done so while still respecting wildlife, the environment and biodiversity. It is clear to me that this Bill is laying the groundwork for more and more government interference in how we do that.

That this Bill was even conceived, let alone introduced, is extremely worrisome to me because it reveals a true lack of understanding by the present government of rural life. The urban/rural divide seems to be alive and well in Nova Scotia. For HRM residents, through their MLAs, and special interest groups, such as the Ecology Action Centre, to be dictating how we should manage our lands is a huge slap in the face to landowners. It implies that the less educated country folk don't know how to go about their business so us much smarter city folk will tell them how to do it.

The quote from the present Minister of Lands and Forestry about collaboration would be laughable if it were not so false and misleading. There was nothing "collaborative" about this piece of legislation. This just shows a complete lack of transparency and honesty. If the Liberal Party of Nova Scotia has more MLAs who think and act like that it is a sad day for rural residents.

In closing I will state that the continued efforts by the Ecology Action Centre, and its henchmen (the Liberal Party), to control and erode our rights and livelihoods as landowners have finally gone too far. We will not be caught napping again and will be ever vigilant in protecting our properties from the invading armies of the misguided few.

Paul Tufts, President

Tufts Forestry Services Ltd.