

From: Carolyn Pineau [REDACTED]
Sent: March 28, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Biodiversity Act (Bill 4)

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

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Good morning Committee Members:

I was extremely disappointed to learn of the recent changes made to the proposed Biodiversity Act (Bill 4). However, I believe the Act is still extremely important and it must be passed!

*** Biodiversity refers to the variety of living species on Earth, including plants, animals, bacteria and fungi. All of the Earth's species work together to survive and maintain their ecosystems. For example, the grass in pastures feeds cattle. Cattle then produce manure that returns nutrients to the soil, which helps to grow more grass. This manure can also be used to fertilize cropland. Many species provide important benefits to humans, including food, clothing, and medicine. Much of the Earth's biodiversity, however, is in jeopardy due to human consumption and other activities that disturb and even destroy ecosystems. Pollution, climate change, and population growth are all threats to biodiversity. These threats have caused an unprecedented rise in the rate of species extinction. Some scientists estimate that half of all species on Earth will be wiped out within the next century. Conservation efforts are necessary to preserve biodiversity and protect endangered species and their habitats.**

The proposed Biodiversity Act comprises exactly the conservation efforts recommended above! It will commit the province to work on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in a proactive, collaborative way. It was created in partnership with Lands & Forestry, stakeholders like EAC and ECELAW, and members of the public.

Apparently this Act is the first of its kind in North America! Unfortunately, our provincial governments have a poor track record when it comes to taking care of our environment. But I believe that implementing this Act would demonstrate that our current government has finally gotten serious about taking these issues seriously! We could be a leader and a great example for other provincial and federal governments to show what can be done when citizens and leaders work together. With the severe threat of the climate change disaster looming over us, it is crucial to implement this Act as soon as possible!

**Sincerely,
Carolyn Pineau
Cole Harbour, NS**

*** www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/biodiversity/**