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From: Greg Cosman [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 12:30 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4 comments to Law Amendment committee -Nova

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

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To whom not may concern,

I had hope that the Rankin Government that would stand strong for our environment and would go down in history as the government that held its ground against the Forestry industry and private landowner interests. However, reading about the quick changes in the Biodiversity act I have lost faith.

From the article I read last Saturday in the Herald "Certain Sections that are problematic for landowners". And then this Saturday – **"In the last two weeks, thousands of landowners have told the government that Bill 4 was a threat to their rights. The Government said it was listening and making changes to Bill 4" , "Together we will stop Bill 4 so it doesn't stop us from using our land as we choose"** Wow that was easy, thousands of landowners kicked up a stink and quickly got their way, 10's of thousands of Nova Scotia citizens have been asking for a Moratorium on clearcutting and we don't get as much as a simple meeting with Lands and Forests, not a single acknowledgement of our concerns.

What I get from reading numerous articles over the last week is "How dare we infringe on the rights of private landowners". Hmm I wonder about the rest of us that are affected by their actions. There are numerous differing opinions, however there is evidence and science to show that what happens on private land has the potential to affect us all.

Clearing land of trees and other native land plants can and will lead to changes in local and global climate patterns. Locally it will result in dryer and hotter conditions as well as effecting ground water retention, etc. Just one article I found and there are plenty more - <https://sciencing.com/deforestation-affect-weather-23869.html>

So how dare private landowners be given free rein to do whatever they please, when what they do affects us all. Regulation and clear guidelines as proposed in the original Biodiversity act including "Emergency Measures" must be put in place to control clearing of private lands for any purpose. I am a private landowner and embraced and celebrated the original Biodiversity act as an indication that the Rankin government was truly committed to making tough decisions that would ultimately protect us all and leave a better environment for our children and grandchildren. We all must be accountable to the environment and if we are then no one should be concerned about this legislation in its original form.

It is my opinion that the proposed changes have removed the "guts" of this legislation. We have an opportunity to lead the world in Biodiversity protection. Lets show the world what Nova Scotia is really about and who we are. I ask that the changes be reinstated to allow this proposed legislation to have authority and the power to protect our land and environment for our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

Greg Cosman, BSc. Agr.

Nova Scotia, Canada

