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**From:** Philip Mitchell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** April 12, 2022 6:44 PM  
**To:** Premier; FinanceMinister@novascotia.com; barkhousemla@gmail.com; Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Re: Increased property tax rate for Nova Scotia non-resident property owners

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

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Mr. Premier,  
Mr. Finance Minister,  
Ms. Barkhouse,  
Law Amendments Committee:

I am writing to urge you to reconsider the recently proposed increased property tax rate for Nova Scotia non-resident property owners.

As a previous non-resident myself, up until the end of 2021 I must voice my concern for what I feel is a detrimental mistake on the Government's part.

I originally purchased my home as a vacation property to visit periodically from my home Province of Ontario. I fell in love with the welcoming nature of the people of Nova Scotia and it was this sense of belonging that made me move here permanently.

Over the years I have contributed significantly to our Municipality of Chester by paying property taxes, employing local individuals and companies (a Housekeeper, Gardeners, Contractors & various trades to maintain my home) pay for their goods and services, financially supporting the art centre, the Playhouse, the library and various other local and community charitable organizations and personally volunteering my time and talent in many ways that benefit my own community and several beyond. I have a design firm and have a passion for historic homes and have focused my time and money on restoring two such homes here in Chester. I have been awarded the Nova Scotia Heritage Trust award twice for the restorations of both of these homes.

If this tax for non-residents had been in place prior to me purchasing my first home in Nova Scotia 12 plus years ago I would not have purchased the property. I would not have invested the finances and time into my home, the local people or the community and I would certainly not have thought of making this my permanent residence without having experienced all of the above beforehand.

It is beyond my comprehension that the Government of Nova Scotia would want to penalize non-resident property owners through new \$2.00 per \$100.00 tax rate. Why does Nova Scotia want to penalize these contributors, especially as they are not a financial burden to the health care system, extended care costs or education of the Province? This is a very xenophobic like approach and not at all in keeping with the open, friendly and welcoming nature the Province is know for.

I urge you to abandon this proposal. It is not right for this Government to penalize non-resident, non-voting property owners in this way. Many jobs, organizations and people of Nova Scotia will be impacted negatively if these home owners leave the Province, or others are discouraged from coming.

Take the time to research, review and calculate the many negative consequences this decision will have economically to the people of Nova Scotia.

Respectfully,

Philip Mitchell

Philip Mitchell

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