
From: Responsible Energy Action <reaantigonish@gmail.com>
Sent: April 12, 2022 1:18 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Law Amendments Committee - Bill 147

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To the attention of the Law Amendments Committee
Re: Bill 147, to Amend the Public Utilities Act

Responsible Energy Action (REA) is a community group based in Antigonish. For the last 11 years, we have engaged in education and action on how we obtain and use energy in Nova Scotia.

REA warmly welcomes the introduction of Bill 147, presenting amendments to the Public Utilities Act. One of our areas of work deals with equitable access to energy; the absence of equitable access is often referred to as "energy poverty." We are pleased to see that Bill 147 enables the Governor in Council and the Utility and Review Board to make regulations dealing with Nova Scotia Power Inc.'s performance standards, requirements and minimums. We especially welcome 52A (3) (c), which deals with "equity, low-income service and energy poverty."

However, in reading through the Public Utilities Act as a whole, we noted that Section 67 (1) and (2) of the Act would seem to prohibit providing different tolls, rates or charges for service to low-income customers and those in energy poverty.

In order for effective implementation of Bill 147 Section 52A (3) (c), we respectfully request that you amend or repeal Public Utilities Act Section 67 (1) and (2) so as to permit different (i.e. assistive) tolls, rates and charges for low-income residential customers.

Thank you for considering our brief submission.

Sincerely,
Susan Adams
Responsible Energy Action
Antigonish, NS