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From: John Curry [REDACTED]
Sent: April 19, 2022 10:56 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Presentation to Law Amendments
Attachments: Submission to Law Ammendments April, 2022.docx

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To Whom it may Concern,

I have attached a copy of an abbreviated version of the presentation that I would make to the Law Amendments Committee regarding the proposed legislation increasing, I think, outrageously the property taxes on non-resident property owners in Nova Scotia.

If the opportunity presents itself for me to make this presentation in person, virtually, I would be pleased to do so.

Best regards,

John P. Curry

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to make this presentation to this Committee. My name is John Curry. I am a retired surgeon and my principal residence is at [REDACTED] in Chester. My family have been summer residents of Chester since 1902, and I have spent my summers here since 1954.

The Curry family have been privileged to occupy the property at 27 Prince St., Chester since 1960. My wife and I assumed ownership of the property from my parents in 1985. Our children, now in their late 40's and early 50's, have spent their summers here – two working at the then Captain's House and one being a sailing instructor at the Yacht Club.

Our five grandchildren and their parents all look forward with eager anticipation to spending 3 – 4 weeks in August in Chester.

The property is left in our wills to the three children. None of them are residents of Nova Scotia, and it is doubtful that they could afford to continue to own the property if the proposed tax increases go through.

That would be very sad and something that neither my wife nor I want to contemplate.

The house was built in 1904 as a summer home, and it is still, 120 years later, a summer house. It has no basement, it is not insulated and the wind blows through the window and door frames. Because of its location on the site, it is not accessible during the winter.

Warden Webber was correct. Raising the property taxes on this property is not going to help the housing shortage in the Municipality of Chester or Nova Scotia one little bit.

On the contrary, regrettably, it will drive away summer residents from the US and the rest of Canada who have been coming to Chester for generations. They have employed local tradespeople to look after their properties and their boats. They have patronised the local grocery stores, farmers markets, the NSLC and restaurants. These people who this legislation will drive away support, enthusiastically, our cultural events and local crafts. They truly care about the community.

We had a taste of what life was like in Chester without our summer friends in 2020 and 2021 because of the travel restrictions brought on by Covid 19, and we didn't like it

As we look out at Little Fish Island, if the owners were to decide to sell it, it would be bought very quickly. That sale would have absolutely no impact on the housing shortage in Nova Scotia, and we would lose lifelong friends.

I do think that without extensive modification to this legislation, it will be yet another example of killing the goose that lays the golden egg.