

From: Theresa Scratch [REDACTED]
Sent: October 30, 2022 7:16 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Cc: Theresa Scratch; Craig, Minister Steve; Mayor Mike Savage; Councillor Paul Russell
Subject: Law Amendments October 31 2022 - Bill 225 Submission

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

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Good day

I am submitting the comments below to Law Amendments (October 31, 2022) regarding Bill 225, an Act to amend the HRM Charter.

Bill 225 effectively removes the Municipality as the primary authority for planning and denies the public right to participate as provided in legislation. The HRM Charter enables the Municipality to assume **primary authority for planning within its jurisdiction and establishes a consultative process to ensure the right of the public to have access to information and to participate in the formulation of planning strategies and bylaws.**

Bill 225 allows the Provincial Government to nullify, without consultation, **any** by-laws made by HRM Council. All HRM by-laws are approved in the best interests of the overall community. HRM Council decisions are not made solely on the input from the public but surely the decisions are reflective of Municipal services and financial capabilities. If Bill 225 effects the Municipal ability to provide services will the Province assume responsibility for those services?

Bill 225 has been drafted as a result of the "housing crisis" and an obvious need to increase housing stock. Although we all recognize population growth will expand the boundaries of development and increase the density of housing, I never expected an elected body to consider public input as an obstacle to be eliminated. I have voted for Councillors to represent my Municipal interests. I have served as a Municipal Councillor. I have volunteered for over 30 years in my community, including participating in Municipal Planning Strategy reviews and amendments, as well as serving on the planning advisory committee as a volunteer. I saw these as contributing to my community. I find Bill 225 and the Deloitte report are a slap in the face to elected Municipal representatives, all volunteers and the general public.

Bill 225 is more than an amendment to address a noise by-law, as suggested. If one reviews Regional Council's discussion and decision on the recent changes to the HRM Noise By-law, it is obvious that **all** input was considered and exemptions to the bylaw could be obtained through the development officer. I assumed from their discussion the source of noise complaints had mainly to do with rock crushing and associated activities. All other construction activities would remain the same or may receive an exemption. The Bill 225 amendment appears to be very heavy handed and far too broad to consider it an amendment to address a couple of hours of "rock crushing".

I find Bill 225 offensive and undemocratic and I hope it is defeated.

Regards
Theresa Scratch

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