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**From:** Audrey MacDonald [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** March 4, 2024 11:27 AM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Antigonish Merger Legislation

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Members of the Law Amendment Committee:

While I am neither for nor against the proposed merger of the municipalities of the town and county of Antigonish, I request a delay in bringing this bill to a third reading (or simply not passing the legislation) until either one of two events occurs:

1. A plebiscite allowing the citizens of these municipalities to have their voices heard on the governance of their municipalities, or; 2. Waiting until the municipal elections in the fall so that current and prospective municipal candidates can run on this issue.

Additionally, as the process that has been followed to get us to this point has been seriously flawed, in my opinion, I am requesting that a study of this prospective merger — covering all possible implications — be conducted with full transparency. At this point, as a resident of the area, I feel both transparency and meaningful engagement has been sadly lacking.

Finally, if the decision to proceed with a merger is deemed favorable, by a majority of the affected residents rather than the individuals who currently — and incorrectly — suggest they are speaking for all of us, I suggest the group to lead the change be an objective group. Much trust has been lost with the mayor, warden, and their deputies. Therefore, acceptance of the proposed new governance model is possibly more likely under the leadership of individuals who have not been involved in working toward this forced merger.

I implore you to return the decision on a merger of the Antigonish municipalities to the residents of Antigonish town and county.

Audrey MacDonald  
Antigonish

Sent from my iPhone