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**From:** Oldgroupie Louise Ewing [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** March 6, 2024 1:11 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Bill 407

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Dear Law Amendments Committee Members,

In addition, as you have been told by numerous people, we aren't against consolidation. We just want our democratic right as Nova Scotians to decide our future. Please either reject Bill 407 or amend it to require a full study by the UARB and a plebiscite that the MGA (and our rights as Canadians) allows us to have.

If you allow this bill to go through you are ignoring the facts:

The issue is still in front of the courts. At least wait for the court decision before proceeding.

A very accurate poll shows that over 75% of people in the Antigonish Town and County want a vote.

The same poll shows only 22.4% of people feel the Mayor and Warden provided enough

information. Despite the Mayor and Warden's claims that they did wide spread consultations, that just

isn't true. They did all their meetings during the height of the Covid 19 pandemic, when many people

were afraid to go to large gatherings, and therefore, very few people showed up. And those who did show

up weren't listened to. They were just told what was going to happen. That's hardly democratic.

The request for this legislation barely passed in both Councils (in the Town, the Mayor cast the deciding

vote, and in the County, it passed by one vote. And one of the Councillors, who has stated he wants a

plebiscite, was told he couldn't vote due to conflict of interest).

The Councillors did not run on this issue and therefore have no political or ethical mandate to push this through without a plebiscite.

You will have submissions saying nothing more than "we want consolidation because it will be better." If

this is true, then there is no harm in a vote. Show us how it will be better, and we will vote for it. That

way, you'll have the peoples' support the way it should be done.

I would also like to point out that the allegations made by the MLA for Yarmouth and others that our Warden and Mayor have been harassed, etc to the point that criminal charges should be considered is absurdly their own fears about their own wrong doings.

How can the mayor get away with blatantly and audibly calling an opposing councillor an A\$\$HOLE in active council chambers??

My own councillor was not allowed to participate in the vote because he works for public works yet 22% of the population resides in his district but the Warden works for the county and could vote on his own proposal, the Mayor works for the town and could do the same. Where do we draw the line of admissibility? If my councillor (and others) can't speak for the people they were elected to represent -

again 22% of the population in my zone alone - where is the legality of this hugely erroneous Bill? My voice has not been represented and that makes the process illegal as I see it.

Regards,  
Louise Ewing  
Antigonish County  
[REDACTED]