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**From:** Sara Gillis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** February 24, 2025 8:45 AM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Law Amendments Committee re: Bill 1  
**Attachments:** Law Amendements Bill 1.pdf

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Please see the attached submission in regards to Bill 1.

Sara Gillis

Law Amendments Committee, Nova Scotia House of Assembly  
Legc.office@novascotia.ca  
February 24, 2025

**Re: Bill 1 - An Act Respecting Government Organization and Administration**

To Members of the Law Amendments Committee,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding Bill 1 - *An Act Respecting Government Organization and Administration*, particularly the proposed amendments to the Auditor General Act.

The audit function is essential for ensuring public accountability, serving as a cornerstone of responsible governance. It plays a critical role in nurturing a healthy democracy by promoting transparency and holding those in power accountable.

To effectively fulfill its mandate and preserve its credibility, the Office of the Auditor General must remain independent and impartial from government influence. Any perception of bias or undue political pressure undermines public trust, not only in the Office of the Auditor General but in the government itself.

Clause 1, which grants the government the power to dismiss the Auditor General without cause, threatens the essential independence of the Office. This proposal compromises its ability to function impartially.

Clause 6, which outlines a process for making the Auditor General's reports confidential, includes language that is overly discretionary and opens the door to political interference. This vague wording could allow the government to suppress information and undermine public trust in the Auditor General's work.

It is crucial that Nova Scotians retain confidence in the Office of the Auditor General, ensuring it remains effective in holding the government accountable for its stewardship of public funds and supporting a well-functioning public sector. To achieve this, we must protect the Office from any appearance of bias or undue influence by the government. Therefore, I strongly urge that Clauses 1 and 6 be revised or revoked.

At a time when democracy seems increasingly fragile globally, the swift passage of this omnibus bill—particularly its efforts to limit debate, silence constituents and elected representatives, obscure government actions, and undermine the independence of the Auditor General—is deeply concerning.

Sincerely

Sara Gillis

