

**From:** Yuill Herbert [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** March 3, 2025 1:48 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** letter on Bill 6

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Please distribute to the committee.

Thanks, Yuill

Dear Premier,

My name is Yuill Herbert. I work for the leading climate consultancy in North America with offices across the US and in Latin America- our headquarters is in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia, where I have lived for 20 plus years. My colleagues and I work with all levels of government- cities, states and national- using sophisticated systems dynamics models to evaluate the risk and opportunities of future climate scenarios.

My interest both professionally and personally is to build a better future for Nova Scotia and my children. I was involved, as a citizen, in the 2013-2014 effort to inform the government at the time on the risks of hydraulic fracking. In particular, I prepared a background paper that analysed the risks to climate change from fracking. After multiple webinars, briefings, extensive research, I like many other Nova Scotians, concluded that the risks of fracking fundamentally outweighed any benefits.

In the subsequent decade, scientific analysis on the impacts of fracking have found that the impacts are even greater than anticipated, where natural gas production and consumption causes public health and environmental harm from point of drilling to the point of consumption. For example, a recent CBC news article [describes](#) fracking-caused earthquakes that shake houses in the Peace Region. And natural gas as a fuel is no longer considered clean- production of natural gas [is accelerating climate change](#)- or even safe, with [one study](#) finding that gas stoves in homes cause 13% of all childhood asthma in the US.

I understand the economic arguments for hydraulic fracturing, which we have watched play out in western Canada and various regions in the US. In the case of Nova Scotia, the direct economic benefits would flow to a relatively small number of people, most of whom do not live in Nova Scotia. Because of the specialised nature of the work, most of the workforce is mobile and would travel from established production areas in the US and the west. Most businesses and financial benefits also will not be local, parachuting in from regions with financial markets or established businesses.

These marginal financial and employment benefits must be traded off against costs which Nova Scotians must bear, costs that are generally hidden, externalised and durable, burdening communities and the environment for generations, from well reclamation (or lack thereof) to degraded areas for hunting, from air pollutants to contaminated water from fracking fluids. In every jurisdiction, governments and the industry claim that these impacts can be addressed by regulation, and every jurisdiction fails, even those with a long history of oil and gas production. For example, consider one small element of regulating fracking- the health and environmental impacts of fracking fluids, many of which are trade secrets.

Beyond the profound environmental, social and health impacts caused by fracking, Nova Scotia's pathway on the energy transition is eased by the fact that we don't have extensive natural gas infrastructure, avoiding financial and cultural lock-in. We don't have to overcome the stranded investment in extensive natural gas infrastructure with which so many other jurisdictions must contend, consuming dollars that are vital for funding the clean energy system.

Nova Scotia has made significant investments in a clean energy future and these investments are attracting population and stimulating businesses. The introduction of fracking throws up roadblock to those efforts and turns away from the climate emergency, the evidence of which is found in blackened trees in Hammonds Plains, the cabins still have perched on their foundations near Rushtons Beach and the dying hemlocks of Kejimikujik.

We need voices of hope and leadership in these trying times. Opening up the possibility of fracking, and for that matter, uranium exploration, will impose greater and profound burdens on both current and future generations. For this reason, I urge you to withdraw this Bill immediately.

Sincerely,

Yuill Herbert

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**Yuill Herbert (he/him)**

Principal

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