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From: [REDACTED]
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To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 1 and Bill 6 Submissions for Public Bills Committee

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Good day,

I would like the following submissions to be read or taken into account when these Bills 1 and 6 are discussed at the upcoming Public Bills Committee on March 17. I am unable to be there in person. Let me know if there is anything else I need to do. Thank you,

Susan Kulik
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bill 1.

Clause 16 :

I move that this clause be amended to reflect that decisions on a) requests lacking sufficient particulars, and b) frivolous or vexatious requests, be made by the non-partisan Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and NOT by public bodies such as government departments. This is a clear conflict of interest, where a government body can ignore FOI requests that deal with items it wants kept secret. This current government has stated very publicly that it does not want to deal with certain special interests, and one would assume that information requests from these special interests could be deemed vexatious if they seek information about government plans that may be unpopular. **This clause is a concern as it is one method of consolidating power and removing checks and balances.**

Bill 6.

Clause 4:

I move that this clause be removed. This clause encourages petroleum development and production, including hydraulic fracturing. This province is too small for “fracking,” as it has been shown to contaminate water. 43% of Nova Scotians, according to a NS Government website on water, rely on well water. Any fracturing in any rural area of Nova Scotia could cause contamination of water tables. This is absolutely an unacceptable risk. No amount of money or “business,” or the fairy tale of happy well-paid fracking workers in a clean neighbourhood can justify this risk. In addition, rural

activities like agriculture, tourism and fishing would be at risk. Also, fracking is not a certain business, as wells in other areas have been abandoned when not empty. I recommend we enact a new law that forbids fracking in Nova Scotia. **Also, any exploration or development of any petroleum products in Nova Scotia MUST be in consultation with the public, independent scientists, medical experts, Mi'kmaq, and local municipalities, and the results made fully public.**

Fracking is back on the agenda in Nova Scotia - Halifax Examiner Article from 2019.

Clause 21:

I move that Chapter 6 of the Acts of 2009, the Uranium Explorations and Mining Prohibition Act, NOT be repealed. The reason for this is that there has already been considerable study and informed government decisions to support this Act. It clearly states that the reason for the prohibition is “in order to protect the health and safety of Nova Scotians and the quality of their environment.” If the government wishes to re-study the feasibility of Uranium Mining, it **MUST** be with consultation with the public, **independent** scientists, medical experts, and Mi'kmaq, and the results made fully public. The costs to the safety and health of Nova Scotians and their access to clean well water is far more important than the money it might possibly provide. This province is too small geographically for this type of mining to be safe.

Uranium mining and health - PMC