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From: Nina Newington [REDACTED]
Sent: March 24, 2025 11:39 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Cc: warden@annapoliscounty.ca; Jesse Hare
Subject: Comment regarding Bill 24

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To the Public Bills Committee

Regarding Bill 24

We have three levels of government for a reason. Municipal government is in many ways the most direct and responsive to citizen's concerns. Bill 24 is fundamentally anti-democratic. It attempts to take decision power over transportation infrastructure away from the municipalities. To add insult to injury, it then proposes to give the provincial government the power to force municipalities to pay for infrastructure they did not want.

Bill 6, taken in combination with Bills 1,6,12 and 36, represents an unparalleled and unmandated attempt to reduce the say Nova Scotians have in determining what happens in our province. These Bills are undoubtedly intended to amplify each other. For example, having over-ridden the carefully considered and popular ban on fracking (Bill 6), it is not hard to see how Bill 24 might be used to force a municipality to build a road required for a fracking project in spite of strong local opposition. If the municipality refuses, the province, if Bill 24 becomes law, grants itself the power to go ahead and get that road built anyway – and then to force the municipality to pay for it.

It may appear that this high-handed approach will be more efficient – it is certainly in keeping with the combative tone of this government – but in a democratic system, social license is necessary for projects to go ahead. A friendly, informative, collaborative approach works better. A joint transportation task force that allows the municipalities and provincial government to work together is more effective than this 'my way or the highway' approach.

I ask that Bill 24 be withdrawn.

Sincerely,

Nina Newington

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