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Premier Iain Rankin

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Halifax, NS

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PREMIER@novascotia.ca

March 26, 2021

RE: Proposed Biodiversity Act

Dear Premier Rankin,

I am writing this as a follow up letter to previous correspondence from the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce (March 15, 2021) regarding to the proposed Biodiversity Act, Bill 4.

I thank you for considering the feedback you have received on behalf of Nova Scotia land owners by taking action to remove parts of Bill 4 with respect to private land ownership at this current juncture.

I believe Nova Scotians share your interest in protecting the environment and being responsible stewards of their land. Many indeed are very passionate and proud of their land holdings but are also deeply protective of them. To that end, trust must be built with private land owners through transparent and open dialogue.

You've indicated your intention to pass an amended Biodiversity Act prior to announcing an election. You've further offered hints of how the act will be amended. We would ask that the concerns of private land owners be heard before redrafting the Bill and further, that a robust consultation process be offered prior to its passage.

On behalf of the more than 450 members of our Chamber, we appreciate your leadership in this matter and we are looking forward to strengthening our relationship with your government.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Sherry Martell'.

Sherry Martell
Executive Director
Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce

CC: Honourable Chuck Porter, Minister Lands and Forestry
Karen Casey, Colchester North MLA
Larry Harrison, South Colchester MLA
David Ritcey, Truro- Bible Hill-Mill Brook-Salmon River
Tim Houston, Leader of the Opposition, MLA Pictou East