



NS Department of Lands and Forestry
Minister Chuck Porter
P.O. Box 698
Halifax NS, B3J 2T9
Canada

March 29, 2021

Dear Minister Porter,

After hearing of the proposed *Biodiversity Act*, intended to provide for the stewardship, conservation, sustainable use and governance of biodiversity in the Province, Municipal Council discussed the implications for residents as well as the references to municipalities.

It is unclear to Council why the Act is needed, when considered in concert with the wide range of existing legislation which promotes, requires and enforces stewardship, conservation and sustainable use. What issue is this act trying to resolve that is not already resolved by existing legislation?

In addition, Council would like to better understand what the vision is around the language which provides for partnerships with the Federal Government and Nova Scotia municipalities. Existing legislation has put significant downward pressure on municipal resources for inspection and enforcement – with no offsetting revenue streams. Can you provide additional information on this piece?

I would appreciate some clarity on this proposed act, at your earliest convenience.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Cunningham", is written over a large, faint, circular watermark or stamp.

John Cunningham
Warden
JC/vp

Cc:
MLA Zach Churchill
Premier Ian Rankin

Brendan Maguire, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Mayor Amanda McDougall, Acting President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Mike Doleter, President, AMANS
Keith Irving, Minister of Environment