



Melissa Sheehy-Richard, MLA
Hants West

November 16, 2021

Hon. Kim Masland
Department of Public Works
2nd Floor, Johnston Building
1672 Granville Street
P.O. Box 186
Halifax, NS. B3J 2N2

Dear Ms. Masland:

Our letter today is on behalf of the Uniacke Trails Association, the Sackville Lakes Park and Trails Association and other trail groups in the Sackville, Mount Uniacke and Hants West areas. It concerns the status of Bill 236 - The Railways Act.

It is our clear understanding this legislation passed third reading and given Royal Assent in March 2020 under the former government but has yet to receive proclamation until regulations are formulated for the Bill. We are fully cognizant the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board turned down an application by the Uniacke Trails Association with considerable assistance from Paul Smith from Sackville Lakes Park and Trails Association to revoke the license of Windsor and Hantsport Railway Company.

The Utility and Review Board believes despite Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal as it was known then, having intervenor status along with the Municipality of West Hants and East Hants, that the Department should have filed the complaint which they outline in considerable detail in their decision handed down December 23, 2020.

Windsor and Hantsport Railway are clearly not following terms and conditions of their operating license nor are they following legislation known as the Railways Act even prior to the introduction of Bill 236 and the awaited approval of regulations. Confusion also exists with Bill 236 as it stands now with the true definition of a non-operating railway. If this could be better explained, the trails groups would be truly appreciative.

In summation today, we are asking for one of two things, an expeditious proclamation of Bill 236 or if this is not feasible, is the Department of Public Works prepared to overrule the decision of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board and put into legislation the fact the Windsor and Hantsport Railway be removed from controlling the tracks which would support the vision of an Active Transportation Trail that completes access to the Valley for The Great Trail (TransCanada Trail) and continues around to the south and western sides of the Province. This plan has the potential to provide



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economic benefits to rural communities along the route, as well as health benefits and provision of recreational, educational, and active transportation opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to a reply at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

Melissa Sheehy-Richard, MLA
Hants West

Yours truly,

John MacDonald, MLA
Hants East

Yours truly,

Steve Craig, MLA
Sackville-Cobequid

Yours truly,

Brad Johns, MLA
Sackville-Uniacke

cc. Nicole Lafosse-Parker, Chief of Staff to the Premier of Nova Scotia
cc. Kody Blois, MP
cc. Municipality of West Hants
cc. Municipality of East Hants
cc. (to all the trail associations listed)