

1 November 2021

The Honourable Brad Johns
Chair, Law Amendments
Province House
1726 Hollis Street
Halifax

Dear Mr. Johns,

I would like to have the following considered as part of my submission to today's Law Amendments hearings regarding Bill 57 - Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act:

Clause 7:

(a) to complete and release a Province-wide climate change risk assessment by December 31, 2022, an update by December 31, 2025, and an update every five years thereafter.

The Act should specify what is to be addressed in the *climate change risk assessment*, is it to focus on adaptation (for example, sea level rise or building retrofits) or mitigation (for example, the status of the Atlantic Loop or the state of the province's natural emissions sinks).

Clause 7:

(f) to require any new build or major retrofit in government buildings, including schools and hospitals, that enters the planning stage after 2022, to be *net-zero energy performance* and *climate resilient*;

(g) to encourage landlords who currently lease office space to Government to transition existing office space to meet *net-zero energy performance*;

(h) to prioritize leased office accommodations in buildings that are *climate resilient* and meet *net-zero energy performance* starting in 2030;

The Act should specify in Clause 2 what the government means by *net-zero energy performance* and *climate resilient*, as is done with other terms used in the Act.

Clause 7:

(j) to develop and implement a zero-emission vehicle mandate that ensures, at a minimum, that 30% of new vehicle sales of all light duty and personal vehicles in the Province will be zero-emission vehicles by 2030;

(k) to develop and implement supporting initiatives for the goal in clause (j);

The Act should include provisions that specify a percentage of all zero-emissions vehicles will be made available to low-income Nova Scotians (7j).

It should also specify that the province will increase the number of public Level 3 charging stations across the province (7k).

Clause 7:

(l) to have 80% of electricity in the Province supplied by renewable energy by 2030.

(m) to phase out coal-fired electricity generation in the Province by the year 2030.

These two sections require the completion of the Atlantic Loop. The Act should direct the government to lobby the federal government and get other provinces on-side for the estimated \$5 billion it will take to complete the project.

Clause 6:

(b) by 2050, to be net zero, by balancing greenhouse gas emissions with greenhouse gas removals and other offsetting measures.

The province's net-zero plans as outlined in the Act are woefully inadequate. Quite simply, without sufficient natural sinks, the province will be forced to purchase emissions credits from other jurisdictions, a potentially costly exercise. The Act should include a new clause specific to 2050, keeping in mind that we must continue reducing emissions after 2050 (net zero or better) and if we do not achieve net zero by 2050, the province could be required to purchase (expensive) emissions credits and be prepared for the loss of its biological sinks that are at risk from extreme climate events. To this end the province must:

- a) *Conduct a complete and accurate publicly accessible biannual assessment of the province's greenhouse gas (GHG) fluxes of the biological sinks (such as forests, croplands, wetlands, and seagrass meadows).*
- b) *Publish a publicly-accessible biannual report which measures, reports, and verifies the carbon-related impacts of the threats to Nova Scotia's biological sinks and conduct an economic and carbon flux assessment of the potential solutions to reducing the threats and vulnerabilities of the sinks.*
- c) *Establish interim emissions reduction targets between 2030 and 2050.*
- d) *Ensure that emissions are reduced beyond 2050.*
- e) *Introduce tax incentives for carbon captured in natural sinks to promote the maintenance of our efforts to increase their carbon capture ability.*
- f) *Support the research and development of its geological storage capacity for carbon-sequestration.*

If you or committee have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact me at larry.hughes@dal.ca.

Sincerely,

Larry Hughes, PhD