From: [redacted]
To: Premier
Cc: MLA Office; Kody Blois; Abraham Zebian; PublicOnlyCouncilEmail
Subject: Uranium exploration and mining in NS
Date: June 11, 2025 2:36:36 PM

Hon. Tim Houston, Premier, and all MLAs;

I am a resident and property owner in Windsor, West Hants. I live within spitting distance of the so-called Millet Brook site identified in the RSP for uranium exploration in Hants County. I have grave concerns about uranium exploration and mining in Nova Scotia in general and in my watershed in particular.

Last night, the Municipality of West Hants voted unanimously to submit a formal request to you to request a pause on uranium exploration. Other municipalities (e.g., Pictou, Lunenburg) have passed similar motions. I fully support a pause in the process of requesting proposals and awarding permissions for uranium exploration in NS.

A pause is important to allow time for information sharing, engagement with the public, meaningful consultation with First Nations, and close examination of the available science. Full exploration and consideration is warranted of the potential risks of both exploration and mining in this particular geographical context.

The watershed contains groundwater in the substrate and surface water in the form of many lakes, rivers and streams, including drainage to a tidal river that releases into the Minas Basin and beyond, into the Bay of Fundy. This poses risks of widespread distribution of radioactive runoff in both freshwater and marine aquatic systems. Radon and other cancer-causing radioactive gases and dust particles also pose significant risk of widespread distribution and resulting health problems.

I urge you, all MLAs, responsible Ministers and departmental staff to consult independent experts and examine the science created by scientists at arm's-length from the mining industry. Such experts and scientists should include those with knowledge of health impacts for humans, other species, and ecological systems, such as ecologists, veterinarians, and physicians. Please also examine the earlier report that recommended the ban on uranium mining in Nova Scotia to familiarize yourself first hand with the in-depth process and the identified risks that led to the recommendation and the subsequent ban.

There are many, substantial, serious, irreversible, and long-term negative impacts associated with uranium exploration and mining in a geographical context like that which exists in West

Hans and elsewhere in Nova Scotia. Experts indicate that there is no safe way to explore for or mine uranium in a context like ours, with a dense rural human population, granite substrate, many surface and groundwater water features, and a high rate of precipitation and associated flooding events. Please see recommendations by the US EPA and others, including those that resulted in a ban on uranium exploration and mining in Virginia, a region that has similar conditions to those in Nova Scotia in terms of precipitation rates and population patterns.

Nova Scotia does not have the conditions that are present in Saskatchewan (large, remote areas; stable substrate; arid conditions; relatively flat topography), which may make uranium exploration and mining relatively safer for humans in that province. (Even so, a tailings pond at the Saskatchewan uranium mine site was breached, causing widespread ecological damage, including to caribou, which is endangered species.)

Nova Scotia has much higher precipitation rates than Saskatchewan. They are also higher than in Virginian, where uranium mining is banned largely due to risks associated with high precipitation rates. A higher precipitation rate in NS alone presents a higher risk of widespread radioactive contamination from uranium exploration and mining than in Saskatchewan and Virginia.

It will be impossible in this geographic setting to guarantee containment of products and byproducts of uranium exploration and mining, such as the contents of tail ponds, radon gases, and radioactive elements that are readily dispersed through air and water and wildlife, and that bioaccumulate in fish, other animals and birds that move about the landscape, and that become part of our food system, ultimately accumulating in us and our children and grandchildren for tens of thousands of years.

I urge an immediate ban to allow for full consideration of the implications and risks, as well as public engagement and meaningful consultation with First Nations.

We are all in this together. We depend on the air, water, soil, and other species as the basis of life. We cannot live without clean air, clean water, clean soil, and other species.

The risks would extend well beyond the boundaries of the designated exploration sites. The released, radioactive particles in the air, soil, and water will move and disperse well beyond the exploration and mining sites. These aspects need to be taken into account and considered by all affected, which in effect includes all Nova Scotians.

Will you implement an immediate pause to allow for sober reflection and full exploration of the implications by all levels of government, First Nations, the public, and affected private land owners?

I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Karen F. Beazley, PhD
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BCC: All MLAs

[redacted]

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Dalhousie sits on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq nation. We are all Treaty people.

We acknowledge the histories, contributions, and legacies of the African Nova Scotian people and communities who have been here for over 400 years.