

(Name, address, date)

To the Honorable (Name of your MLA)

I am writing to you today as a constituent and as an invested member of the [Nova Scotia Working Woodlands Trust \(NSWWT\)](#), an initiative that began in 2019. I own a woodlot where I live in beautiful (your community) and help provide stewardship recommendations to woodlot owners across the county.

In (your county), our woodlands are under threat from numerous changes, both natural and human caused. Like risks from wildfires and flooding, poor forest management has a dramatic impact on the long-term economic and ecological integrity of private woodlots. Financially motivated tactics such as liquidation and clearcut logging contribute to significant losses of high conservation-areas, sequestered carbon, biodiversity, future timber quality, and overall forest resiliency – increasing the risk of unprecedented events caused by climate change.

Many woodland owners in (your county) are aging without clear successional planning. As a result, carefully stewarded lands passed down for generations are at risk of liquidation or land conversion. The NSWWT provides willing landowners a legal mechanism through a Working Forest Community Easement to ensure only ecological forestry will be practiced on their property, balancing sustainable access to wood products with conservation. The Trust is currently poised to provide Nova Scotian woodlot owners access to carbon offset markets, which will help incentivize participation, and provide the legal means for certain areas to contribute to [Nova Scotia's protected area targets](#).

The NSWWT offers a creative solution to protect the long-term stewardship and rich diversity of values found on (your county) woodlots through ecological forestry and conservation. The aim of the NSWWT is not to fully restrict logging activities but ensure that forest management practices are in alignment with the policies set forth by the Province of Nova Scotia, to maintain biodiversity, build forest resilience, and improve the quality and value of standing timber over time. We understand how important woodlots are for weekend recreation, as an escape from our busy lives and connecting with family; and are enthusiastic about fostering the next generation of forest stewards. The potential of this initiative has also been recognized by the Province's Forest Innovation Transition Trust (FITT) and was awarded over \$265,000 in funding as part of the Family Forest Network pilot in 2021.

The NSWWT has been waiting to become an eligible body to hold Working Forest Community Easements under the Community Easement Act for over 2 years. The NSWWT have worked diligently to meet the requirements to be added to the Act and are waiting for Cabinet Approval to be added to the Act. We are in a difficult position as we have clear support from landowners to provide this service and some of our funders are hesitant to make further contributions in absence of this eligible body status. I ask that you help us promote our inclusion as an eligible body with Cabinet and build this strong initiative for long-term private land stewardship in Nova Scotia and help solidify the significant investment made by FITT. Please reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Your Name