

April 14, 2025

The Honourable John Lohr
Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing
14th Floor North, Maritime Centre
1505 Barrington Street
P.O. Box 216
Halifax, NS B3J 2M4
Via Email: dmamin@novascotia.ca

Dear Minister Lohr:

I am writing to express the disappointment of our Council and residents regarding the recently announced amendments to the Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations, which establish new maximum allowable setbacks for wind turbines in Nova Scotia municipalities.

For almost two years, our Municipality had been actively engaged in extensive community consultation on this matter. Our goal was to address residents' concerns while remaining open to new wind turbine development. Through this thoughtful and inclusive process, we have established setback provisions within our By-law that we believe were both reasonable and appropriate. Once set, these provisions were submitted for ministerial approval and that approval was received. It was, therefore, extremely disheartening to learn that the Province had unilaterally imposed new maximum allowable setbacks, effectively disregarding the significant efforts and community input that shaped our local policy. In our opinion, this decision undermines the principles of local autonomy and disregards the considerable work undertaken by our community. We would like the Province to give municipal units more discretion than this unilateral approach. Colchester approved a 2km setback that was carefully considered and approved in November 2023.

We remain committed to serving the best interests of our residents and taxpayers. Therefore, we request that the Province change its decision on the amendments to the Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations, by reinstating Municipal autonomy on this issue and allowing our Municipality's aforementioned By-law to be upheld.

We also hope the Province will strive to work more closely with municipalities in future decision-making processes that affect our mutual residents most directly.

Regards,



Christine Blair
Mayor

c: Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Nova Scotia Mayors and Wardens