

Dear Minister Hines,

I have been following the news concerning our forestry industry and I find very little to encourage me. I was letting the various items that appeared recently including the Forestry Hub with its search for how to use biomass, the role that the biomass burner at Hefler's bankruptcy concerns and others percolate in the summer warmth, but the recent news concerning the use of round-up in our forests was the proverbial straw that broke this camel's back. I have to voice my concerns.

1) I was deeply disappointed to read the aims of the "Forestry Hub" to which Emera, the provincial and federal governments are contributing large sums of money (totalling 1.7 Million). The Forestry Hub seeks to find "new and innovative uses of our forest products". While this announcement sounds benign, a closer look shows otherwise. Effectively, the Forestry Hub is searching for new ways to use the forest biomass that had been slated for the Point Tupper boiler!!!! This winter over 28000 people supported my petition calling for an end to the use of forest biomass for power generation. Partly in response to this pressure, the province ended the must run status of the Point Tupper biomass boiler. Our hope was that the extensive harvesting of our forests would be reduced. Comments by the many people who signed my petition clearly showed that their primary concern is to stop the wholesale deforestation and whole tree harvesting used to supply biomass boilers. It is more than disappointing that this newly created Forestry Hub is seeking other ways to use biomass obtained by these destructive harvesting methods. The government needs to recognize that Nova Scotians don't want their forests to be swallowed up in the interests of producing a mysterious biofuel. I congratulated the government for stopping the must-run status of the Point Tupper biomass boiler. Unfortunately, this new Forestry Hub is designed to expand the use of forest biomass for industrial purposes giving no respite to our flagging forests. This Forestry Hub virtually assures that the clear cutting and whole tree harvesting of vast swaths of our province will continue. Taking the Point Tupper biomass boiler off must run status will have done little to slow the devastation of our forests.

2) The various biomass plants around the province are meant to run with mill waste, but Hefler's problems (described twice in the last weeks in the Chronicle Herald) point to another consequence of these plants: to keep them running, biomass contracts are issued, leading to the whole tree harvesting and clear cutting that is so devastating to our forest ecology.

3) Now the last straw: use of ROUND UP to control leafy trees in crown lands! We need diversified forests, not even aged mono cultures of softwoods. The difficulties with our forest ecology and environmental quality will only be made greater by killing leafy trees. Round up should only be used to kill invasive species, such as the knot-weed which is spreading through our province. Aerial spraying of Round-up is an offensive practice and could affect many people with environmental sensitivities. Posting a small public notice in a summer paper when most people are going to the beach is clearly doing the minimal amount of public disclosure about this practice.

I understand that as Minister of Natural Resources you have responsibilities to a range of sectors, but I believe that we are collectively missing the boat with provincial actions in this field. We need to maintain forests for their carbon capture capacities while developing our capacities for extraction of solar energy with battery storage capacities and improvements in energy efficiency of housing and transportation infrastructure. We need to move away from fossil fuels and not reactivate the use of coal for power generation. The funds going into developing these old fashioned methods of power generation should be directed towards establishing solar grids, returning to the COMFIT program that allows decentralization of power generation and a host of forward thinking initiatives. I know that some

of these questions are not dealt with directly by your ministry, but all these issues are linked and these links need to be recognized.

I wish you luck in solving these problems, but PLEASE stop these destructive practices of industrial forestry at a time when your citizens are crying out for an end to the devastation of our forests.

Sincerely,
Helga Guderley
Boutilier's Point, Nova Scotia