

Honourable John Baird  
Minister of the Environment  
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Dear Honourable Minister:

**Re: Environmental Assessment of the  
Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project  
Joint Review Panel Report**

I am writing to ask you to reject the recommendations made by the Joint Review Panel on the above noted environmental assessment.

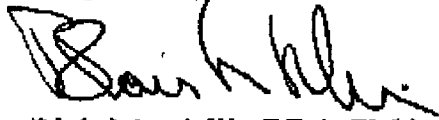
Rural Nova Scotia is in need of jobs of all types and descriptions. Employment in the resource industry does not offend a Nova Scotian's "core values" as noted in the report. The perpetuation of "poverty" does offend our "core values". Nova Scotians are proud and talented people. As you are aware, we are losing our top talent and our young people who are moving away from Nova Scotia in search of employment. Our rural industries that produce forest products including pulp and paper and Christmas trees are failing and are badly bruised by the surge of the Canadian dollar. Our fisheries, including shellfish and inshore, are in a similar situation. Rural Nova Scotia needs resource-based industries to provide middle-income jobs for its hard working residents. Rural Nova Scotians want to work and provide for their families. Their choices for gainful employment will be taken away with the closings of White Points Quarry and the Marine Terminal Project.

Some of Nova Scotia's mining operations (ex: gypsum) have been in successful operation in excess of one hundred years providing hundreds of jobs per year. This is an example of sustainable development and the type of work that Nova Scotians are able and willing to support. Similarly, we currently have Bilcon willing to invest its capital resources to provide long-term sustainable employment to rural Nova Scotians. The Joint Review Panel appears to have dismissed them and their proposed quarry as not being worthy of Nova Scotians. What kind of signal does this send to any company wishing to establish operations in our Province? Currently to start an operation requires the spending of millions of dollars on scientific studies only to have them deeply discounted, ignored and ultimately rejected. It is difficult enough to compete for business in our competitive world without having this kind of opposition. We should be working in partnership with companies who are willing to invest in Nova Scotia so we can reconnect with our core values and grow and prosper as we did in the past.

Nova Scotians need the resources provided by the Bilcons of our province. Our natural resources that are mined proudly by our people provide us with the sidewalks we walk on, the asphalt and gravel we drive on and for those who work at Dalhousie University, the very building materials that were used for the facilities that they work in!

In closing, I urge you reject the recommendations made by the Joint Review Panel and give rural Nova Scotians the chance to work and raise their families in a place where they were raised and want to remain and not just be here as a cottage or vacation locale.

Respectfully submitted



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President McMullin @ Associates Limited Professional Accountant