



January 11, 2023

The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of National Defence  
The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
The Honourable Joyce Murray, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

CC:

Darren Fisher, MP Dartmouth Cole Harbour  
Darrell Samson, MP Sackville-Preston-Chezzetcook  
Lindsay Mathyssen, NDP Critic for National Defence  
Laurel Collins, NDP Critic for Environment and Climate Change  
Lisa Marie Barron, NDP Critic for Fisheries and Oceans

Dear Ministers Anand, Guilbeault and Murray,

As the MLA for Dartmouth North, and the Nova Scotia NDP Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change and Natural Resources and Renewables, I write to amplify the community's deep concern over the Canadian government's plan to develop a Warships System Testing Facility at Hartlen Point, in Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia.

Hartlen Point is an ecologically sensitive area, with tremendous biodiversity in need of protection. It is a stopping place for many species of migratory birds, and in close proximity to two important offshore fishing areas - LFA 33 and LFA 34.

Community members and environmentalists are raising serious concerns about the decision to build a testing facility in this particular area. The fact that there was a poorly advertised, and therefore poorly attended, public consultation is concerning. If your government wants to, as it claims, be a leader in environmental protection - including species at risk like migratory songbirds and other diverse ecosystems - then it must make sure the area to be developed at Hartlen Point is not actually an area in need of protection by your government.

I urge you to conduct a thorough environmental assessment before any work begins, which would include input from experts, community members and Indigenous land and water protectors.



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I look forward to your response, and to hearing that development will stop until it is sure that there will be no serious impacts of this testing site on the area.

Best regards,



Susan Leblanc  
NSNDP Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change  
NSNDP Spokesperson for Natural Resources and Renewables  
MLA Dartmouth North



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