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December 28, 2022

Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant

Jill McGillicuddy, Administrative Assistant

Dear People,

The Backlands Coalition is a coalition of non-governmental groups in HRM. Our mission is to ensure no loss of wildlife habitat in the Backlands and to preserve them for natural, historical, cultural, conservation, educational, recreational, and common use.

The Backlands are located on the eastern side of the Chebucto Peninsula, across the Northwest Arm from downtown Halifax (search "Purcells Cove Backlands" on google maps).

We are writing to request placement on the agendas of two HRM Council Standing Committees; Environment and Sustainability and Community Planning and Economic Development.

***Environment and Sustainability Committee (February 2, 2023)***

Members Boris Worm and Mather Carscallen will present for the Backlands Coalition. They will briefly cover the environmental benefits of these wild lands and the substantial costs to HRM both financially and environmentally should the lands be disturbed by development. In light of the upcoming revision of the Regional Plan, they will request that the committee consider a motion that recognizes the need for rezoning that maintains or improves the integrity of the current habitat and also eliminates the possibility of development.

***Community Planning and Economic Development Committee (February 16, 2023)***

Member Kaarin Tae will present for the Backlands Coalition. She will briefly cover the community and economic benefits of these wild lands and the lost opportunities should the lands be disturbed by development. In light of the upcoming revision of the Regional Plan, she will request that the committee consider a motion that recognizes the need for rezoning that maintains or improves the integrity of the current habitat and also eliminates the possibility of development.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions or comments, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Hall

Co-Chair Backlands Coalition, WLCC Director

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902-402-3618

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#### Member Organizations

- Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield
- Purcells Cove Neighbourhood Committee
- Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization (WRWEO)
- Williams Lake Conservation Company (WLCC)
- Oceanview Drive Residents
- Halifax Field Naturalists
- Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society
- Ravenscraig Neighbours
- Ferguson's Cove Neighbourhood Association
- McIntosh Run Watershed Association