

August 22, 2016

Honourable Stephen McNeil & Ms. Margaret Miller
Premier's Office and Environment Minister's Office
Halifax, NS

Dear Mr. Premier McNeil and Ms. Miller,

It was very nice to be able to meet you both over the last few months. I am very happy that my LaHave River has a plan to become straight pipe free. Your support and dedication to the project has been really great! You also have been very nice to me. I like the letters you both sent me. I put them in my scrapbook.

My parents explained to me a resolution that my municipality along with the union of municipalities approved saying houses sold with an illegal straight pipe must get a septic system. I am grossed out that houses are actually being sold with straight pipes...EEW! My mom told me when a house is sold you need a water test and a permit to live in it. It's strange to me that a permit is given to illegal straight pipe houses. I know I am a kid and it is all very complicated and involves money, but really when a house is sold, it would make sense to fix the illegal straight pipe at that time.

I heard it may have something to do with real estate agents not getting big commissions because houses will sell for less. I don't believe this. The Nova Scotia Association of Realtors sent me a really nice letter and an award, recognizing me as someone who is working to improve the quality of life for all Nova Scotians. They want a cleaner environment and good working septic systems for the houses they sell. I think home prices will go up if the water is cleaner.

I know the resolution is now with you, the provincial government. When will this resolution be approved and become a law? Why is it taking so long to become a law? I know it isn't the answer to fixing all of Nova Scotia's straight pipes, but isn't this a really great move? Every time a house fixes their illegal straight pipe, we are healing our waters a little more.

Please continue your great work to better the world for me and my kids. I really want to see a straight pipe free Nova Scotia someday. It is already long overdue.

Your friend,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stella Bowles". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stella Bowles