

February 3, 2011



The Honourable Darrell Dexter  
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Dear Premier Dexter:

[www.tians.org](http://www.tians.org)

The Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS) was very pleased with your government's announcement in December to reduce clearcutting in the provincial forests by 50 per cent within five years. This announcement, in addition to your commitment to stop whole-tree harvesting and public funding for herbicide spraying are all positive steps towards protecting the province's natural heritage for residents and visitors.



While these decisions have been encouraging, TIANS and other tourism stakeholders are concerned these advances are being jeopardized by the government's decisions to utilize forest biomass for electricity generation. The health and beauty of the landscape of Nova Scotia are at the very core of our tourism industry. Large scale forestry harvesting damages the natural environment, eliminates wildlife habitat and decimates view planes.



The pilot project in Cape Breton involves a number of unknowns in terms of effectiveness and outcomes. The recent announcement to move forward with additional biomass projects before understanding the impacts of the pilot places the natural heritage of the province at great risk. TIANS is particularly concerned that this decision was made despite the conflicting recommendations from the Natural Resources Strategy Review steering panel.



The long-term viability of Tourism in Nova Scotia is dependent upon the health of our natural environment, including our forests. Your government has made significant advances with the environmental agenda and we urge you to continue leadership efforts on this front.

Sincerely,

Darlene Grant Fiander  
President, TIANS

cc Minister Percy Paris, Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism  
Minister Charlie Parker, Natural Resources and Energy  
TIANS Board