

Office of the **Mayor Sylvester Atkinson** PO Box 340, Middleton, NS BOS 1PO Ph: (902) 825-4841 Fax: (902) 825-6460 Email: satkinson@town.middleton.ns.ca www.discovermiddleton.ca

August 2, 2023

Honourable Tim Houston, Premier Office of the Premier PO Box 726 Halifax NS B3J 2T3

Dear Premier Houston:

The Town of Middleton is pleased to support the Save Our Old Forests (SOOF) Campaign.

The Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act was passed by the Nova Scotia Legislature in October 2021. It includes a commitment "to conserve at least 20% of the total land and water mass of the Province by 2030 as protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures."

The SOOF has petitioned and called upon the Premier to pause all harvesting and roadbuilding activities in forests over 80 years old on Crown land in Annapolis County until such time as 20% of Nova Scotia's lands have been permanently protected.

Along with the clear cutting, bird species and wildlife are particularly impacted. The protection of the old forests must begin now.

To that end, the Town of Middleton is supportive of the SOOF petition to pause all harvesting and road building activities until such time as 20% of Nova Scotia's lands are permanently protected. The consideration of the support for this important and timely environmental issue is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

athonson

Mayor Sylvester Atkinson Town of Middleton