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To: [Abraham Zebian](#)
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Subject: Ellershouse 3 wind turbine project and wetlands/flood control
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Mayor Zebian and Council

It was with great interest that I watched yesterday's public information session regarding the Ellershouse wind turbine development expansion. I was especially intrigued by the comments surrounding the wetlands and found them particularly cogent. It is my understanding that wetlands play an important role in flood risk mitigation, as stated in the quote below taken directly from the Government of Nova Scotia website (the emphasis is my own):

We now realize that wetlands perform many important functions and services in our landscapes such as, improving water quality, controlling floods, recharging groundwater, protecting coastal infrastructure and providing critical habitat for rare and endangered species. Wetlands are also among the most productive and diverse of all the ecosystems on earth, so the loss of wetlands can mean the loss of species or local populations of fish, wildlife and plants that depend on them for habitat or food. Because many of Nova Scotia's wetlands have already been lost due to various human activities (e.g., over half of all original salt marsh habitat has been converted to other uses), wetlands that remain take on a heightened level of importance.

I would like to remind the Mayor and Council of the microburst that turned Maple Avenue and the Ellershouse Rd into a river that washed a car away, and damaged several others, only 6 yrs prior to the tragedy of last summer. I would also invite you to have a look at the hurricane forecast for this coming summer. As predicted, these events are becoming more common and once in a hundred year events are becoming once in a decade events.

We have already lost four of our neighbours to last summer's tragic flood. My friends have had their house washed off its foundation. Other friends have had decks and cars damaged. Highway 14 is still down to one lane due to the damage. What happens if the St. Croix dam truly does give? How many people are at risk and what happens when we lose the Highway one as well as Highway 101?

My question to the Mayor and Council is how much disruption of wetlands, temporary and permanent, are you going to risk, and hence put a price on people's lives? Only you folks can answer that question. We all have to sleep with our own conscience at the end of the day.

Respectfully,
Grace Crawford