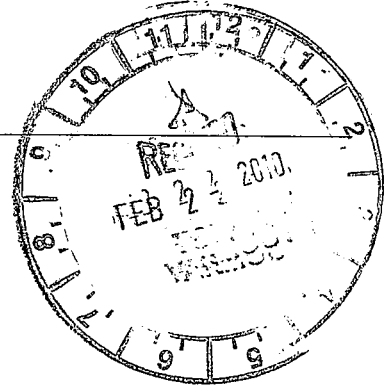




The Honourable Stephen McNeil, MLA
Leader of the Opposition
PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA



February 18, 2010

Mayor Phil Mooney
Town of Yarmouth
400 Main Street
Yarmouth, NS B5A 1G2

Dear Mayor *Phil* Mooney,

I would like to thank you for the recent correspondence regarding the governments' decision to discontinue funding the CAT ferry.

The Nova Scotia Liberal Caucus is very concerned with the impact this will have, not only in Southwestern Nova Scotia, but the rest of our province. We realize that a ferry service between Nova Scotia and the United States is an essential economic driver for the province. This province cannot afford the loss of any services linking us to the United States during this serious economic downturn. Our tourism industry, which is one of our leading provincial contributors to the economy, will suffer some long lasting consequences.

Our Caucus will continue to push the NDP government to find a solution to this issue. We are also of the opinion that a full scale economic analysis should have been conducted before any decision was made on whether or not to fund the Cat ferry.

It was reckless for the NDP government to make any assessment before the federal-provincial study on the ferry, which is still in progress, was released. Like many Nova Scotians, we are interested in seeing the results of this report.

We support your efforts to petition the government and encourage you to continue your hard work on this important issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.
Leader, Nova Scotia Liberal Party