

October 28th, 2008

Dear Members of the Nova Scotia Legislature:

**Re: Bill 181 HRMbyDesign**

My purpose in writing all of you is to re-iterate the Halifax Chamber of Commerce's strong support for Bill 181, HRMbyDesign.

The recent controversy over the Waterside Centre development is an excellent example as to why HRMbyDesign is critical for our city. In yesterday's Chronicle Herald, Councillor Dawn Sloane said it best when she stated: *"We (HRM) have these, grey ambiguous laws that everybody's interpreting differently. And it's not helping anybody."*

Both Mayor Kelly and Premier MacDonald have publicly acknowledged the need to address the issue of development approval times in Halifax. In the same Herald article, Mayor Kelly stated: *"That's why we're going through the HRM By Design,"* he says of the planning document which is slated to go before this fall's legislature session for approval. *"If it was in place, this would not have been an issue."* We couldn't agree more.

The Chamber will be presenting to Law Amendments on Bill 181. We urge all of you to support the Bill to ensure that our city and in fact, our province, can take full advantage of future development opportunities.

I look forward to a productive and exciting fall session.

Sincerely,



Valerie A. Payn  
President & CEO

