

Sample Letter to MLA

[MLA Contact Name Here]

[MLA Contact Address Here]

[Date Here]

Dear [MLA Name Here],

I am a resident of your constituency and a unionized employee of Nova Scotia Power.

Nova Scotia Power's outsourcing announcement is of great concern to me, and in an effort to secure your support, I feel it's important to mention a few crucial points.

There are a large number of Nova Scotia Power employees in your riding, from linesmen to the people who run the plant in Point Tupper. This outsourcing of unionized workers could also affect many non-union jobs, and that substantially increases the number of area employees. All of us – ourselves, our wives, and our children - contribute significantly to the local economy. We own homes here and pay taxes, we shop, we use local services, and we impact the area in many important ways.

We don't want to go out west for work, but if we're forced to, our money and our contributions go with us.

Our workers are highly skilled, experienced with providing this service, and have the best interests of this area and their neighbors at heart. I fear we will not be able to say the same of strangers from out-of-province, and I am not confident that restoration times will remain at their current levels if we're forced to wait for an out-of-province crew to be dispatched and travel to a site. Even if people don't have a strong opinion about it now, it will only take one storm in the middle of the winter when people need their heat restored, for the public to express how they feels about waiting for linemen to come from far away.

Not only that, but how does Nova Scotia expect to attract new employees to work for less than the current employees are making? These trades and expertise are in high demand all over the country, so it's unlikely someone will come here for less money than they can make elsewhere.

I pay a power bill like everyone else, and, like everyone else, I'd like to pay less. One only needs to look at fuel costs and executive salaries if there's any question about why our rates are constantly increasing. I'd be interested to know how many unionized jobs could be saved by getting rid of just one high-paid, redundant management position from headquarters in Halifax.

But the fact is, my bill will not go down if my colleagues and I are replaced with other workers, nor will it ensure power rates don't increase, and it's frustrating that the public is under the impression that it will. Public support is very important to us as we fight for our jobs, and support from the sitting government is crucial to our cause.

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Since Stephen MacNeil's campaign revolved around breaking Nova Scotia Power's monopoly, you now have the opportunity to take a stand against them and protecting our jobs. Every government claims to want workers to stay in Nova Scotia and for the workforce to grow, and I expect yours is no different. I would hope you will do whatever you can to see that we are not so unfairly and unnecessarily replaced.

As union employees, we stand in solidarity to bring this situation to a fair resolution, and we hope you agree with our position and support us in any way you can.

I would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you in person about this issue. My contact information is below, and I look forward to speaking with you.

Thank you,

[Your Name]

[Your Name and Contact Information Here]