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August 29, 2019

The Honorable Marc Garneau
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, On
K1A 0A6

and

The Honourable Lloyd Hines
Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
Province of Nova Scotia
1672 Granville St.
PO Box 186
Halifax, NS
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Honourable Ministers Garneau and Hines,

The Cumberland Business Connector is a business-led Non-Profit Society whose members are business owners and leaders throughout Cumberland County, NS. Our mandate is to foster economic growth in Cumberland County. Our role in economic development is to work with the business community, all levels of government, and community groups to remove barriers to growth. We want to be proactive and collaborate to accelerate economic opportunity as well as minimize risks to our businesses and residents.

One area of significant risk to local businesses and residents has been identified. It is the risk to the highway infrastructure around Oxford, Nova Scotia. In August 2018, a sinkhole emerged in the Lions Park located between Hwy 321 (Main Street in Oxford) and the TransCanada Highway. This sinkhole emerged rapidly, had fast flowing water, and swallowed fully grown trees in a matter of moments. In depth research by GHD Limited has confirmed that there is a high probability of additional sinkholes developing with little or no warning.

The risk is twofold, with both Hwy 321 and the TransCanada Highway (west of the Oxford Exit) being identified as being at high risk of subsidence. There is a chain of sinkholes and geologically sensitive