



March 23, 2021

<<<<< FULL NAME OF MLA >>>>, MLA
Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear <<< Ms. or Mr. >>> <<< Surname of MLA >>>

Our organizations represent Manitoba's livestock producers. We are the elected leaders of Dairy Farmers of Manitoba, Manitoba Beef Producers, Manitoba Chicken Producers, Manitoba Eggs Farmers, Manitoba Pork Council, Manitoba Turkey Producers, and the Keystone Agricultural Producers.

We write to you today to express our support for Bill 62, *The Animal Diseases Amendment Act*, and for Bill 63, *The Petty Trespasses Amendment and Occupiers' Liability Amendment Act*, and to seek your support for these two bills.

Foreign animal disease represents one of the biggest threats to animals under the care of Manitoba producers. As we have learned through the COVID-19 pandemic, diseases that travel rapidly and with little traceability can have devastating and far-reaching implications. Diseases like African Swine Fever (ASF) have caused the loss of over 200 million pigs in the first year of an outbreak in China. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) has devastated herds in the United Kingdom. Avian Influenza (AI) has required flocks here in Canada to be depopulated. The introduction of anyone of these diseases to our herds and flocks or the establishment of noxious weeds to our fields and pastures would cause irreparable harm to our industry both in Manitoba and Canada.

Rigorous adherence to biosecurity protocols is a major factor in keeping disease threats out of our food supply. Livestock in our care brought into barns are screened to be disease free, and we consistently

monitor feed sources. Producers also restrict contact with the outside world by carefully limiting access to only those who provide animal care.

The enforcement of strict biosecurity protocols is vital. These two pieces of legislation are necessary steps to protect animals and to ensure that outbreaks like AFS, FMD, AI and other foreign animal diseases do not occur in Manitoba. The legislation will also help with efforts to limit the spread of noxious weeds, which can affect both livestock and crop production, and to help ensure that potential confrontations between farmers and trespassers are avoided.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you individually or with your respective caucus, in a suitable manner under COVID-19 protocols, to discuss this legislation and its importance to our sector.

Sincerely;

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