



MANITOBA
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

March 30, 2021

Bill Campbell, President
Keystone Agricultural Producers
601-386 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3R6

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Thank you for the recent letter you sent co-signed with presidents or chairs of the Dairy Farmers, Beef Producers, Chicken Producers, Egg Farmers, Pork Council and Turkey Producers. I appreciate your concern with safety in the food system. We share your commitment to combating animal disease and to strong biosecurity provisions.

I served for many years in rural Manitoba with what is now the Department of Agriculture and Resource Development. I know how serious the threats of disease are to our food system. I will never forget the tragic consequence that bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) had in Manitoba, and I share your serious concern about other threats such as African Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth and Avian Influenza. Food safety and disease outbreak is a matter I have had opportunity to question the Pallister Government about at the Manitoba Legislature, and I look forward to continuing to serve producers and the public in this regard.

I have read the legislation you reference with great interest. Based on my understanding, Bill 62 would now consider it trespass if, as example, a person out walking happens upon unoccupied, unmarked but private land. Likewise, I see that Bill 63 creates a new classification of offense for entering into zones marked as bio-secure and defines as a breach any hindrance or obstruction of a vehicle carrying animals in transport.

I believe these are serious matters. Our role as legislators is to consider the needs of our community and the rights of individuals. We also must consider whether to use the weight of legislation or whether existing mechanisms or additional non-legislative tools might address any concern. I look forward to committee where we might hear more about exactly that. Thank you again for writing about these important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diljeet Brar'.

Diljeet Brar
Opposition Critic for Agriculture

Cc.

David Wiens, Chair, Dairy Farmers of Manitoba

Tyler Fulton, President, Manitoba Beef Producers

Jake Wiebe, Chair, Manitoba Chicken Producers

Catherine Kroeker-Klassen, Chair, Manitoba Egg Farmers

George Matheson, Chair, Manitoba Pork Council

Rachelle Brown, Chair, Manitoba Turkey Producers