

07 May, 2007.

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Box 2142, Virden, Man.

ROM 2C0

Clean Environment Commission;
305 - 155 Carlton St.
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
R3C 3H8

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Date: May 9 2007
Received by: [Signature]
(Commission Secretary)

To: The Chairperson : Mr. Terry Sargeant

Dear Terry Sargeant;

Several mornings past, you related on a local radio station (CKLQ) that the Commission (CEC) had heard a great deal of negativity and dissension about the hog industry from rural Manitobans, but disappointed that no solutions were offered.

Indeed, it is a grim reminder, much like that of tobacco companies asking people afflicted and dying from lung cancer, due to smoking, and asking, even expecting them to provide solutions, so that they, (the tobacco companies) could continue to promote and sell their harmful and deadly products.

How can you expect rural people to support this industry which is intolerant and indignant to the health and lifestyle of the residents?

How can you expect rural people to support an industry which is intolerant and indignant to the environment, and for the pollution and wasteful use of our finite water sources?.

It is most distressing that our government, now, touts this bloated pork industry, but virtually ignores the hazards that are associated with its' very being. We are not invincible. Consider for one brief moment, the ship, Titanic, and the failure of the Captain to take the icebergs as a serious threat!

Take a step back, Mr. Sargeant, a giant step to about 1995, and consider, very carefully, what was happening with the push of the Filmon government and the corporate greed of vertical integration by the hog processing industry. The public was being deceived!.

But the biggest problem, of course, is what comes out from the other end of a hog.....manure, lots and lots of manure, and all being applied far too generously and too often to a land base that is far less than adequate.

The present government, being in opposition in 1997, recognized the alarming quantity of manure being produced, as the hog herd was steadily increasing, and loudly proclaimed their concerns in Legislature (Hansard) to the ruling Conservatives. To no avail.

Yet, two years later (1999), and now in power, as government, the concerns.....were no longer concerns and shamefully ignored. In fact, the hog herd has nearly tripled. From a mere 3 million (approx) to the present, of nearly 9 million animals.

What about the inadequate land base for manure application?. Well... that was easily taken care of also. With the influence of the Pork Council and the industry, it was no big deal. The once unregulated phosphorus, ... becomes regulated, at far greater amounts, that would take up to 10 years or more for the crop plants to utilize!.

Is that a problem? Of course, it's a huge problem. Now there is an over-abundance of "regulated" phosphorus. So once again, the public has been deceived!.....However, now there is another crisis. Lake Winnipeg and our other water sources are re-acting to yet, a greater overload of phosphorus.

SO MUCH FOR INTEGRITY!.....HELLO TO REALITY!.

Hopefully, by this time, Mr. Sargeant, you might begin to understand.. Why the rural people are showing their distrust and negativity to the hog industry and their invasion into our communities.

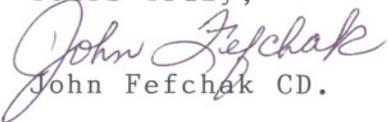
In closure, I will provide one recommendation that you might consider as worthy for pondering on.

In Manitoba, as well as in all the other provinces and territories of this great Canada, there are many hundreds and thousands of people who truly care about this planet, as our home. They also care how we treat our neighbours and care of the environment and our precious water. These people also know, we should'nt have to succumb to the afflictions that are being thrust upon us by Corporations and Industries;for they have little use or regard, for other than their investors and the margin of profit that can be achieved.

From this group of dedicated human beings, there could be a foundation that would formulate a PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, who would report directly to the Legislative Assembly.

Yes, it's a challenge, but for the sake of our water sources, our quality of family living, having clean air and protection of the environment, and for our future generations, there is no shortage of people willing to step up to the plate and "do their part".

Yours Truly,


John Fefchak CD.