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Representing Rolling Acres Colony, Riverside Colony, Grass
River Colony

Clean Environment Commission Meeting March 20, 2007

Good afternoon members of the CEC panel. I would like to thank all of you for this opportunity to speak here today for our hog industry and the importance it has on our very existence.

My name is David Kynoch and I am here today to speak on behalf of Rolling Acres, Riverside and Grass River Colony. I am also involved in the hog industry as a sales representative and was fortunate enough to have been raised on our own family hog farm.

These three colonies are made up of multiple families that rely on the agricultural industry as an integral part of their lives. It is the major source of income that allows them to support their families and future generations. Regardless of the number of animals raised in colonies they are truly the version of the family farm. They vary from 15 to 22 families at these farms which are all supported by the agricultural industry.

I'm sure from this you can see just how important the agricultural industry is to them for their own existence. Who is more concerned about the sustainability of agriculture than the farmer? Who is a better steward of the land than the farmer? We know that what we do today has an effect on the future of our children as well as any chances they have to thrive in the agriculture industry.

As farmers we work very hard to produce the best possible products we can for the consumer. Canadians are known for raising some of the best pork products on the market today. This is

only obtained by taking the best care of our land and ensuring correct animal practices.

We support the government in efforts to protect the surface and ground water supply. The Manitoba pork industry relies heavily on the use of good quality water, not just for our animals but for future generations that will rely on the same land.

We do realize that there are some people out there that do not follow the set regulations or that farms do operate in areas with little regulations. These people damage the environment and seem to give other more efficient and environmentally friendly farms a bad reputation in the public.

We also concern our selves with nutrient management by testing our soils to ensure that the proper amounts of nutrients are applied. We know that phosphorous is a naturally occurring mineral. It is an important mineral in the production of our crops. We focus on the amounts of phosphorous in the soil as too much of it increases algae blooms which threatens plants and organisms in lakes and streams. That being said, only about 13% of the phosphorous in Lake Winnipeg comes from the agricultural industry and of that 13%, only about 1% comes from the hog industry. I do not understand how someone could single out the hog industry when such a small percentage of the phosphorous can be linked to the hog industry.

Hog producers are not the only contributor to the growing phosphorous levels. They also come from areas such as industry, humane waste, cities, natural deposits, dishwasher detergents, and lawn fertilizer. I have yet to see any regulations that restrict the cities on their levels as strongly as the farms have been. In every day life we have the ability to remove the phosphorous levels in our households by simply using Phosphorous free laundry

detergents, dishwashing soap and lawn fertilizers and vehicle soaps. In 1970 the government banned the production of detergents containing more than 20% phosphate. Exempt from the ban were detergents used in dishwashers, car washes, and manufacturing. Now we are 37 years later and wondering what has happened to Lake Winnipeg.

We are all concerned about the protection of our environment and over many generations it is evident that our attitudes have changed. There is no question that we must be more careful with the use of our environment and water resources, but "WE" must also include all contributors to this growing concern. If every pig in Manitoba was gone today, does anyone think that it would make any difference on the nutrient load on the land? What we do not put down in an organic form would just end up being synthetic fertilizer. In a generation of people who are asking every day to have organic food products, why would our government limit this very valuable resource (hog manure) to such a large extent. If we expect to fix this problem we need to involve more than 1% of the source.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments and concerns.