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(Commission Secretary)

My name is Jonathan Kleinsasser from Crystal Spring Colony. I also represent Crystal Spring Hog Equipment which is the largest Hog Equipment manufacturer in our Province.

I want to thank this panel for listening to our concerns and taking the time to try and come up with a fair and reasonable solution to the moratorium that has been the cause of a lot of frustration and ill will to our Hog producers in this province.

As a citizen of this world on a global level an important point I would like to make is that the hog industry is a major food producer for our country and many other hungry places of the world. I truly believe that our real values are at stake and have been reversed. As food producers, we are very important to this world in general, because we produce FOOD. But we are being painted as culprits by the masses of people that eat this food and also carry the majority votes in political decisions. We can do without many material things in our lives and many people in this world do, but we will always need FOOD.

Instead of appreciation and praise for doing a great job we are named and picked out as polluters and as people who don't care about our clean water supply and environment. We are being intimidated to the point where many farmers are not the proud farmers they truly should be. How many young Canadian farmers consider this a noble and respectful way to make a living to serve our country?

As a Manitoba citizen in my humble opinion this whole Moratorium is premature. I believe that it is contrary to our valuable Justice system in this Country. In our Justice system you are innocent until proven guilty. With this Moratorium you are guilty at first count and now have to prove yourself innocent. And while you are busy doing this there shall be no more expansion. Is this morally correct?

As a Hutterite I want to make this statement. We and generations before and after us live on the same farms. We absolutely do not want to pollute the water we drink, the land we farm nor the water in our lakes. We want to pass our farms on to our children with a good conscience as good stewards of our land and water should. We love our children and grandchildren.

Colonies depend on hog farms to make a living. For most of them it is their largest single income and to restrict this industry is to restrict their livelihood.

So why is this happening?

We are by far the easiest target. First of all we can not go on strike like CNN, airlines, automobile manufacturers or other workers. Our products are perishable. They can not be stored and stockpiled like dry goods. This makes us very vulnerable, helpless and defenseless and we depend on the elected government for support and survival.

In all of this I am not trying to defend careless and senseless pollution on a hog farm, if that's where it comes from. We know and you know that there is much higher percentage of pollution coming from our towns, other provinces, USA and especially our city of Winnipeg. That should be tackled first and foremost, regardless of the cost and the votes. 1.5 percent of the total amount of Phosphorous entering Lake Winnipeg has been tested as coming from our farms. Even this amount can be reduced in the future. That leaves over 90 percent from other sources.

We have the strictest rules and regulations that exist in this world when it comes to spreading manure, building lagoons or just building new facilities. If they are not strict enough then let's find ways to make them even better. If science and research prove better ways to manage this industry let's go for it.

This industry has never resisted change. This industry has changed almost beyond description in the last 30 years. This includes old and new farms. Why shut it down to solve its problems.

We have developed excellent ways to spread hog manure. We know it is a great organic fertilizer that builds up our soil. It replaces chemical fertilizers that use up non renewable energy to manufacture. If properly handled, stored and applied it does not need to be a liability.

This industry has created thousands of jobs on the farms besides the spin-offs of all the building contractors, the equipment manufacturers, abattoirs and feed suppliers. The Genetics we produce and the production levels we achieve are the envy of many other countries in the world. In other words

this industry has been a large contributor to our economy. Let's keep it growing in a sustainable manner.

I have traveled extensively to other countries where we sell and service our equipment and I have yet to visit a country that handles manure and farms as responsibly and as sustain-ably as ours.

Please help us as you do your review to protect a minority that desperately needs your support to continue a sustainable growth in this industry.

Respectfully submitted

Jonathan Kleinsasser