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**Presentation for CEC Manitoba Hog Industry Review**  
**Wednesday April 25, 2007**  
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Good evening, members of the Clean Environment Commission, and ladies and gentlemen of the audience. My name is Johannes Waldner, and I live on the Baker Hutterite Community, which is located 5 miles west of Rossendale. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of my community and company here tonight.

I wish to say a few words about our community before taking into context the larger group we are all a part of: Manitoba.

Unlike most other communities, Baker does not raise livestock, and we only farm a timid twelve hundred acres of land. Our main expertise lies in the manufacturing sector. Our main source of income is Better Air Systems, one of the larger ventilation equipment manufacturers in Canada. This moratorium stands to have a big impact on our company, as approximately half of our sales are in Manitoba.

As a community Baker strives to practice sustainability, but we do acknowledge that we have a lot of room for improvement in this area. Through school programs we try our best to teach our children basic principles like reduce, reuse, and recycle. We make an effort to foster a respect and appreciation for the natural environment by promoting nature trails, tree planting projects, bird watching, and gardening. We pride ourselves in our organic fruit orchards and vegetable gardens, that we can raise a healthy homegrown produce for use throughout the year. We feel that by teaching and modeling a respect, love and appreciation for the environment, along with providing a scientific understanding of general environmental concepts, our children as future leaders of the community, will follow environmental rules and guidelines not only because its the law, but because they understand the need and role of such regulations.

A few weeks ago, Rickey and Cameron Maendel from Fairholme Colony told you about how their students have enjoyed success in the Manitoba Envirothon. The three



Environthons I participated in from 2004 through 2006 were highlights of my highschool years. There are two important lessons I gleaned from the Envirothon, number one, it simply opened my eyes to the environmental challenges we face as a province. Secondly, the Envirothon made me realize that any Environmental issue has solutions. But these solutions require time and money invested in research, resources, and support systems as well as sacrifices by all parties..

We realize that new recommendations from the CEC would likely cause financial hardships on hog producers. As suppliers of hog barn equipment, Better Air feels that we have a responsibility to assist hog producers in absorbing the regulations, be it in developing more efficient manufacturing processes to enable price cuts, or in the development of new products to reduce energy consumption. One such product we currently have in production is the heat exchanger, a very valuable tool for reducing heating costs during cold Canadian winters. A properly ventilated barn is very important for improving the working and living conditions of both barn animals and employees. In the heat of summer proper ventilation is a matter of life and death for the animals.

Approximately half of our current sales are directly linked to hog facilities being built here in Manitoba. Obviously, if construction of hog barns in Manitoba were completely stopped, it would dramatically change the makeup of our sales base, we could just go elsewhere with our business, but we feel that as Manitobans, we have a responsibility to support our home province, and to keep the home economy as strong as possible before supporting other regions.

I question the motives of organizations like the Winnipeg Humane society, OlyOpp, and Beyond Factory Farms, who support this moratorium. Wouldn't they find peace in working as a team with farmers and hog producers in researching and implementing methods to solve the perceived problems they complain about, so that they become a part of the solution and not a part of the problem.

These opposition groups are very impressed with this moratorium, but do they really realize what they are wishing for? They envision a perfect world. A perfect world has no sickness, pain, war and in their case no hog barns. We must realize that the perfect world is often unattainable, and in trying to attain a perfect world, we often wreak more



havoc then we intend. While we try to push things in our direction, we often deprive other individuals who depend on the ideals we are trying to abolish.

The two sides we have in this case are; number one, strict regulations with environmental well being as the main concern, and secondly, a total lack of regulations, to encourage economic growth, neither of these alone promote a very promising future for Manitoba. This is why it's important that we find a balance between the two, and strive to maintain it.

As an example of a lack of rules: I was delivering some ventilation equipment to a job site in central South Dakota two months ago. There I was asked about the moratorium: why its been imposed, and how long we predict it will last. Through the course of the conversation I asked about the standards in South Dakota. They thought that their waiting time of one month for obtaining a permit is an outrage, and couldn't believe that it can take up to two years in Manitoba.

Now, here we have a perfect example of the two ends of the spectrum, with Manitoba and its moratorium on one end, and South Dakota with its one month turnover, on the other. Keeping in mind the best interests of Manitobans as a whole, I don't think we want a part in either of these two. In the long run, both will damage either your population and economic growth, or your environment. As both of these are very important components for Manitoba's future generations, we must seek the balance between sound economics and sustainable growth.

Some ways of achieving a better balance in public opinion would definitely include public education programs. From making it mandatory that all hog barn employees are certified pork production technicians, to educating the public in dispelling some common stereotypes about hog farms.

Our justice system is founded on the principal of "innocent until proven guilty." Why is this way of thinking not being applied to the hog industry? In essence, hog producers are not at fault that this review has been delayed for so long, so why are they suddenly the scapegoats when our Lake begins to show signs of abuse? They didn't set the regulations of the time, but they are operating accordingly, so why are they being blamed for polluting if they are doing whatever the regulations ask of them?



We must realize that everyone shares the responsibility in this Lake Winnipeg battle. We all need to live a more sustainable lifestyle, pointing out one industry and shutting it down will not fix the problems existing in our environment. This will have to be a joint effort, shared by all people living and making a living, in the Lake Winnipeg watershed.

Having said this, I'm confident the Manitoba hog sector has more than proven its willingness to cooperate in doing its share – as long as the rest of Manitoba will do their fair share as well.

I don't propose that the commission make regulations lighter on the hog industry, but that we are allowed to continue our lifestyle once the review is complete. Give us the tools to grow in a sustainable manner, enabling us to keep our industry alive for years to come, while still preserving our precious natural surroundings.