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(Commission Secretary)

First, I want to thank this panel for listening to our concerns. We hope you can come up with a fair and reasonable solution for our hog industry.

So far we have heard, a lot of talk and concerns on the Phosphate Issue. This is relevant if it is phosphate that is causing the lake pollution. Consideration should be placed more where the phosphate originates from. Is it only hog manure or is it all livestock, chemical fertilizer, detergents or raw sewage? Why only focus on hogs? There are more regulations placed on the hog industry than any other enterprise. → Article # 1

Hog farmers have invested a lot of money into this industry, and it has only been done to make a living. We as hog farmers do not deny anybody the privilege of obtaining a college or university degree. This is done to find a job to their liking and to earn a living. Hog farmers are no different. → # 2

We have been raising hogs for over a century but now someone wants to teach us "how". It was our government in the last decade that wanted the hog numbers to "Double". Hog farmers invested money so they could produce what was called for. They did this with out government assistance. Then more and more regulations appeared. A large percentage of growers did what they could to follow these regulations, always at their expense, using what little profit that was left and money that was at times financed by the "banks" – not government subsidies as with many other industries.

If this continues, we will have fewer hog because hog producers can not and will not produce hogs at a loss. Jobs will be loss, the economy will suffer and there could be more people on welfare. Is that what the public wants?

If the public continues to pressure government to impose "New Regulations" and the Minister signs the "New Regulations", I wonder if he knew the implications of what he signed. It makes one wonder if the public has ever seen a hog operation or is it just the odor of which they know of? I would challenge almost anybody to visit any grocery chain store and see how many food items they can find which do not originate on a farm. I have been to pulp and paper mills and oil refineries. They all have offensive odor, but it is their livelihood so they accept it as part of life. Just ask the people of Kenora, Dryden, Pine Falls, Edmonton and Lloydminster.

My conclusion is, if, we, the hog producers, are forced into following more "New Regulations" or installing new technology in up grading existing CEC approved facilities By public pressure and government moratoriums, then it should be financed by the government at a minimum of 75 to 80% - through grants and financial assistance (as in many other places) We are forced to either adopt, with loss of income or reject with consequences being fines. We are not forcing anyone to change his or her source of income or existence, why should hog producers accept these philosophies? We are asking this panel to protect an industry, which is very important to the Canadian economy.

Submitted respectfully  
Sam Gross

The April 17 issue of the Free Press in Winnipeg had this article.

of contamination.

East Selkirk has been under a boil water advisory for five years, two areas of St. Clements have health advisories because of raw sewage, East St. Paul has a boil water advisory and in St. Andrews septic fields have failed.

"It's a reality, and our citizens are living it," Strang said, noting some ditches in East Selkirk are full of raw sewage. "Our biggest concern is we think it could get worse."

The *Free Press* first uncovered that wastewater was running into the Red River from poor municipal sewage treatment in 2002. Some municipal homeowners didn't have septic tanks and pumped sewage directly into the Red River while run-off from failed septic fields was overflowing in ditches and into the river.

At the time, East St. Paul officials argued it was the provincial health department's responsibility to monitor

What about hauling sewage on frozen ground as was done in spring.

Or raw sewage flowing in to the Red River because of some equipment that broke down.

50 Days

Or another instance Valves not in the open or closed position where they should have been.

Hutterite Communities and many other Family Farms have chosen to raise hog's as a way to exist in our way of life. If this idea continues (to reduce hog numbers) as implicated, it will drastically hurt our future in this country.

We want to pass on to our children and grand children a clean and healthy environment, be it land, water, or air, preferable all three.