



April 28, 2010

Dear Premier Stelmach,

I am writing on behalf of the Crop Sector Working Group (CSWG) regarding the Institute for Agriculture, Forestry and the Environment (IAFE).

The CSWG is an inclusive partnership of Alberta crop industry organizations that has come together to address environmental issues as they affect the crop sector in Alberta. Our member organizations include the Alberta Canola Producers Commission, Alberta Pulse Growers, Alberta Barley Commission, Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission, Alberta Oat, Rye and Triticale Association, Alberta Soft Wheat Producers Commission, Alberta Potato Growers and Alberta Sugar Beet Growers.

Over the past two years, we have been engaged with the IAFE through the Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta (AEPA). The CSWG is very supportive of the IAFE's work on ecosystem services and market-based instruments. We support Alberta initiatives in "greening growth" and see the agriculture sector as a significant part of that initiative.

The crop sector can intimately affect decisions regarding Alberta's landscapes and eco-systems. By enabling the creation of market based instruments for ecosystem services, the Government of Alberta can allow us to be leaders in environmental stewardship.

On behalf of the over 20,000 Alberta farmers the CSWG represents, I urge you and your Government to release the IAFE report as soon as possible. Farmers need to see and understand what the IAFE is recommending so that we can be active and informed partners in land use decision processes

and environmental initiatives. Like you, we want to address environmental issues in a manner that will benefit all Albertans now and into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Swainson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "J." and the last name "Swainson" clearly visible.

Jack Swainson, Chair  
Crop Sector Working Group

cc: Honourable Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and  
Technology  
Honourable Ted Morton, Minister of Finance and Enterprise  
Honourable Mel Knight, Minister of Sustainable Resource  
Development  
Honourable Rob Renner, Minister of the Environment  
Honourable Jack Hayden, Minister of Agriculture and Rural  
Development  
Mr. Morris Sieferling, Commissioner, Land Use Secretariat  
Dr. Ken Nicol