

Minister  
of Agriculture and  
Agri-Food  
and Minister for the  
Canadian Wheat Board



Ministre  
de l'Agriculture et de  
l'Agroalimentaire  
et ministre de la  
Commission canadienne du blé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

JUN 11 2008

Quote: 118456

Mr. Doug Robertson  
Chair  
Alberta Barley Commission  
3601A-21<sup>st</sup> Street NE, Suite 200  
Calgary, Alberta T2E 6T5

Dear Mr. Robertson: *Doug.*

Thank you for your letter to me and Mr. Jamshed Merchant, Executive Director, National Land and Water Information Service, regarding the federal government's Offset System for Greenhouse Gases released in March 2008. I appreciate the effort taken to identify in detail both your areas of support and your issues of concern with respect to the Offset System.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to the Honorable John Baird, Minister of the Environment, whose department leads the Government of Canada's Clean Air Regulatory Agenda.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada provides input to the Offset System through Environment Canada's interdepartmental Working Group on Offsets. My staff will be discussing the issues you raised with Environment Canada with a view to facilitating and maximizing the potential participation of the agricultural industry in the context of the Offset System.

I understand that Environment Canada will be releasing further details about the Offset System within the next few months. We look forward to working with you and other stakeholders within the agricultural industry to make the Offset System a success for the sector. We also value your contribution to environmental objectives.

Again, thank you for writing to me on this matter.

Sincerely,

Gerry Ritz, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable John Baird, PC, MP

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