



BC Farm Industry Review Board

May 13, 2021

File: 44200-20

Delivered by email

Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Dear Minister Popham:

Re: Animal Activism and Orderly Marketing in Regulated Agriculture

Several livestock commodity boards and commissions (boards) have again raised concerns regarding trespass by animal activists on farms and private property of producers, to the attention of the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB). The concerns range from producers' fears about the safety and welfare of their families, themselves and their animals, to property damage, disruption of livelihoods, risks of a serious biosecurity event and potential impacts to the food supply chain and food security.

BCFIRB agrees that these concerns represent significant implications to orderly marketing and the public interest.

We understand that yourself, along with Ministers Eby and Farnworth, announced, at BC Agriculture Day in October 2019, that the issues associated with trespass and animal activism on BC farms would be examined and addressed. We appreciate that the legal, policy and enforcement issues involved are complex and are still under assessment, in consultation with various industry representatives.

Please let me know if there is any assistance that BCFIRB can provide the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to help move these matters forward. BCFIRB members have suggested that amending the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* to address some of the concerns raised may be an option for exploration. BCFIRB staff would be pleased to support any discussions or analysis as appropriate.

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Thank you for your consideration of these matters and please let me know if there is anything that would be of assistance to you or the Ministry moving forward.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Donkers', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Peter Donkers
Chair

cc Tom Ethier, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Arif Lalani, Assistant Deputy Minister
Business Development Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Chairs, Commodity Boards and Commissions (livestock)

BCFIRB Web site