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DELIVERED BY EMAIL

Bruce Cook, Chair
British Columbia Broiler Hatching Egg Commission

Ron Kilmury, Chair
British Columbia Chicken Marketing Board

David Taylor, Chair
British Columbia Egg Marketing Board

Ron Charles, Chair
British Columbia Turkey Marketing Board

Gentlemen:

IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF MANDATORY BIOSECURITY STANDARDS BY COMMODITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board (FIRB) has previously advised that it expects that the supply managed poultry boards will issue orders concerning mandatory biosecurity standards early in 2007.

FIRB understands that the biosecurity standards and interpretive guidelines developed through the British Columbia Poultry Association have been discussed with producers. The standards reflect the knowledge and expertise of various knowledgeable groups, including producers, and as such provide valuable input to the boards in developing their biosecurity orders.

FIRB also understands that some boards have given provisional approval to the proposed standards. We expect that you are now prepared to bring mandatory biosecurity programs into effect. This will be accomplished by incorporating the biosecurity standards into your orders and establishing monitoring and compliance procedures consistent with the scope of the regulatory and administrative authority delegated to commodity boards under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*.

British Columbia
Farm Industry Review Board

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FIRB believes that this coordinated approach, developing orders based on the combined expertise of producer associations and other industry stakeholders, commodity boards and FIRB will also ensure that the public interest is protected. FIRB is prepared to assist the boards in clarifying any issues with respect to their statutory authority and in pursuing ministerial and legislative support as may be required in future.

Biosecurity orders will require the prior approval of FIRB. FIRB requests that the four poultry boards continue cross-sector discussions and consult each other in the development of their orders. FIRB accepts that there are differences between industries and types of production within those industries and that certain aspects of each board's orders will reflect those differences. However, FIRB is of the view that regulatory efficiency and fairness require a high degree of consistency in the fundamental expectations contained in each board's orders; beginning with basic standards required of each producer through to measures ensuring their compliance with their board's orders. Every regulated producer should be subject to the same fundamental expectations as other regulated poultry producers and the consequence arising from non-compliance with those expectations should be similar in nature.

Process and timing issues will be the subject of discussion at the upcoming meetings between FIRB and your boards on October 18 and 19, 2006. We look forward to working with you in implementing these important measures.

Yours truly,



Richard Bullock
Chair

pc: Daphne Stancil, Assistant Deputy Minister
Strategy, Policy and Legislation
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Harvey Sasaki, Assistant Deputy Minister
Risk Management and Competitiveness
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Ray Nickel, President
British Columbia Poultry Association