

September 28, 2023

Standing Senate Committee on
Agriculture and Forestry
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4

Via email: agfo@sen.parl.gc.ca

Re: Bill C-234: An Act to Amend the *Greenhouse Gas Price Pollution Act*

Dear AGFO Committee Members,

On behalf of Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA), I am writing today asking you to show your support for Canadian farmers by studying and passing Bill C-234, An Act to amend the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*, as written, to third reading at the Senate. Farmers deserve to have this bill passed into law.

I am a 4th generation farmer, and my family farm has been in operation for over 110 years. Together with my son, we farm 5,000 acres near Killam, Alberta, where we grow canola, wheat, and malt barley. I am the current Chair of CCGA, which represents Canada's 43,000 canola farmers on issues that impact their farms' profitability and viability.

The economic and environmental sustainability of my family farm is everything to me. However, investments in energy-efficient grain dryers and other sustainable technologies such as precision agriculture, cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Having the working capital to make these investments is critical; I can't invest what I don't have. Bill C-234 will keep more dollars in farm businesses and enable farmers to make these important investments.

Bill C-234 seeks to extend the exemptions to also include the natural gas and propane that I use on my farm to grow my crop. It will provide much needed economic relief to farmers, like me, for critical farming practices that have no viable fuel alternative, such as drying my grain during a wet harvest.

Farmers have always cared about our land by adopting best management practices and minimizing our fuel use whenever possible. Inputs are amongst my biggest expenses, so I always use them as efficiently as possible, whether that be gasoline and diesel, fertilizer, seed, or natural gas and propane.

In recent years, with changing weather conditions I have no other choice than to dry my canola to ensure the quality of my crop is maintained and spoilage or food waste is minimized. Grain drying has become an integral part of my operations, and with the price on carbon going up, the tax alone from grain drying can cost me

thousands of dollars every year. For example, the 2023 harvest has already started. Even though this year was a drought in many regions of the Prairies, I have received a few rains this fall which means that I have had to use my dryer to protect the quality of the food supply. As such I have been forced to pay a carbon tax that I could not avoid and have no way of passing this expense on. Unfortunately, today there are no viable options other than natural gas or propane to dry canola, so the exemption provided by Bill C-234 will be a significant relief for canola farmers like me.

As a member of Agriculture Carbon Alliance (ACA), CCGA fully supports their recent testimony at your committee. I and 43,000 canola farmers represented by CCGA request you support this critical and timely bill to help Canadian farmers, growers and ranchers stay competitive, continue to invest in innovations, further improve our environmental footprint, contribute to the Canadian economy and our rural communities, and continue to produce healthy, high-quality food for Canadians and the world.

Sincerely,



Roger Chevrax
Chair
Canadian Canola Growers Association

CC: Rick White, President & CEO, CCGA
Honourable Robert Black, Senator, Chair, Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
Honourable Paula Simons, Senator, Deputy Chair, Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
Honourable Brent Cotter, Senator, Member, Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
Honourable Percy Mockler, Senator, Member, Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
Honourable Sharon Burey, Senator, Member, Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
Honourable Pierre J. Dalphond, Senator, Member, Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
Honourable Victor Oh, Senator, Member, Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
Honourable Chantal Petitclerc, Member, Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
Honourable Marty Klyne, Member, Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
Honourable Yuen Pau Woo, Member, Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
Ferda Simpson, Clerk, Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry