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May 14, 2024

Senate Committee of Agriculture and Forestry Senate of Canada Ottawa, K1A 0A4 agfo@sen.parl.gc.ca

Attention: Ferda Simpson, Committee Clerk

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the National Cattle Feeders' Association (NCFA), we respectfully request an opportunity to appear before the Committee as a witness during its study of Bill C-275. We support the Bill and encourage a timely Committee review.

<u>Bill C-275 is an essential and overdue tool</u> to ensure farmers can raise healthy animals and produce safe food for Canadians knowing protection is in place to address unauthorized individuals trespassing onto their farms.

Today, modern agriculture is about highly sophisticated farm operations that have precise biosecurity measures in place. Unauthorized individuals trespassing onto these operations, present a serious breech to these biosecurity measures that unnecessarily expose the animals to potentially catastrophic animal diseases or dangerous substances. This threat is increasingly due to global animal disease outbreaks including Foot and Mouth Disease and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in cattle.

On cattle feedlots, the feed and water sources are precisely managed, measured and controlled and the introduction of contaminants can have severe impacts. The movement of the cattle between pens is carefully directed while barns, equipment, clothing and footwear are routinely cleaned and manure management programs in place. Visitor access is carefully controlled through maintaining records of the movement of people, animals and equipment onto and off of the premises. These measures are critical for the health of animals and the safety of food as well as essential if a traceback is required due to a disease outbreak.

Canadian farmers are proud of their operations and welcome the opportunity to showcase their work in a manner that respects the required safety protocols. We must remember that Canadian farms are places of business that have the right to be protected by legislation that recognizes that.

NCFA encourages the Committee to review of Bill C-275 in a timely manner such that this legislation can be in place to protect Canadian farmers as soon as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Canada's cattle industry.

Sincerely

Will Lowe

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Chair

The NCFA serves as the national voice for cattle feeders across Canada. Together with government, NCFA is committed to harnessing opportunities for growth, sustainability and competitiveness of cattle production and across Canada.