

Good Afternoon Senators,

We are writing to you in the context of your role on the AGFO Senate Committee.

The National Cattle Feeders' Association (NCFA) requested an appearance before Committee on C-275. Since we have not yet had the opportunity to appear, we want to highlight our perspective on this important legislation.

We respectfully encourage the Committee to move this legislation forward unamended in a timely manner. Unnecessary amendments to the Bill will delay the benefits of important biosecurity protection required by Canadian farmers.

Across all livestock sectors, including beef, strict biosecurity protocols are in place which apply to **farmers, employees, and all authorized visitors**. Examples of these efforts are demonstrated by the sector's participation in the following industry-led, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)-recognized programs. For the beef sector, this program is Verified Beef Production Plus (<https://verifiedbeef.ca/>).

Biosecurity controls outlined in such programs show significant results in reducing diseases. Steps in these programs often involve restricting visitors' access to animals, ensuring high standards of cleanliness, sanitation, and proactive measures to avoid disease risk, among other things.

Bill C-275, *An Act to amend the Health of Animals Act*, focuses on implementing biosecurity measures to address the risks posed by unauthorized individuals entering areas where farm animals are kept. **The Bill does not need to include authorized visitors as this protection is already provided to Canadian farmers** – as noted above.

Trespassing intrusions pose significant risks to the health, safety, and comfort of animals as unauthorized individuals may inadvertently bring in contaminants or disease pathogens that are harmful to animals. This could result in the culling of entire herds or the closure of trade borders at significant costs for industry, government and food security.

We ask you to genuinely consider the impact of proposing any unnecessary amendments to the Bill. Instead, we ask that you pass the legislation in a timely manner so that farmers can immediately benefit from the protection that Bill C-275 provides.

Sincerely,

Cathy Jo (CJ) Noble

Vice President of Policy and Government Relations

P: 613-794-2139

Twitter - @cnobleatncfa

