

CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

SCOPING MEETING

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Held at Morden Legion Hall

Morden, Manitoba

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2007

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APPEARANCES:

Clean Environment Commission:

Mr. Terry Sargeant	Chairman
Mr. Norm Brandson	Member
Mr. Wayne Motheral	Member
Ms. Cathy Johnson	Commission Secretary
Mr. Doug Smith	Report Writer

Presentations:

Bill Harrison	- Personal	7
Ann Marie Gray	- Personal	24
Hans Borst	- Personal	26
Ab Freig	-Puratone	30
Gordon Orchard	- Personal	36
Cheryl Kennedy		
Courcelles	- Personal	44
Glen Koroluk	- Beyond Factory Farming	64
Jack Peters	- Personal	77
Gerald Enns	- Green Party of Man.	91
Martin Unrau	- Cattle Producers Assoc.	102

Reporter:

Lisa Reid

1 THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2007

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 1:05 p.m.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Good afternoon. I
4 think we will get going now. Good afternoon. My
5 name is Terry Sargeant. I'm the Chair of the
6 Manitoba Clean Environment Commission. As well,
7 I'm the Chair of this panel. With me on the panel
8 are Mr. Norm Brandson of Winnipeg and Mr. Wayne
9 Motheral who, some of you will know, is a resident
10 of Morden.

11 I have a few opening comments. I
12 apologize to those of you who sat through Winnipeg
13 and Steinbach, you may have heard me refer to
14 these before. It just sets out our mandate
15 briefly and why we're here today.

16 The Clean Environment Commission has
17 been requested by the Minister of Conservation to
18 conduct an investigation into the environmental
19 sustainability of the hog industry in Manitoba.
20 The sustainability of hog production, pardon me,
21 is one aspect of the hog industry.

22 The Terms of Reference from the
23 Minister direct us to review the current
24 environmental protection measures in place
25 relating to hog production, in order to determine

1 their effectiveness for the purpose of managing
2 the industry in a sustainable manner.

3 Our investigation is to include a
4 public component to gain advice and feedback from
5 Manitobans, and this is one initial step in that
6 process. This will be by means of the public
7 meetings in the various regions of the province to
8 ensure broad participation.

9 We have also been asked to take into
10 account efforts under way in other jurisdictions
11 to manage hog production in a sustainable way.

12 Further, we are to review the contents
13 of a report prepared by Manitoba Conservation
14 entitled "An Examination of the Environmental
15 Sustainability of the Hog Industry in Manitoba."

16 At the end of our investigation, we
17 will consider various options and make
18 recommendations in our report to the Minister on
19 any improvements that may be necessary to provide
20 for the environmental sustainability of hog
21 production.

22 To ensure that our view includes
23 issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel
24 has undertaken to hold three days of what we call
25 scoping meetings, open to groups and individuals

1 who would like to identify and suggest issues
2 related to hog production in Manitoba and which
3 could be addressed by the panel. Today is the
4 third and last of those scoping meetings.

5 We are not here today to engage in
6 in-depth discussion on these issues. There will
7 be opportunities at a series of meetings to be
8 held throughout southern Manitoba in March and
9 April for detailed input. A list of the dates and
10 places for those meetings is available at the back
11 table.

12 Presentations today are to be limited
13 to 15 minutes. What we are looking for today is
14 identification and an introduction of issues you
15 believe we should consider in our review, a brief
16 reasoning as to why these issues should be part of
17 our review, and any suggestions you might have on
18 how the panel could approach our investigation.

19 As well, written submissions will be
20 accepted. Information as to how to submit written
21 suggestions is also available at the back table,
22 as well as on our website. The deadline for
23 written submissions, in respect of the scoping
24 part of our review, is February 2nd. There will
25 be a later date for more detailed written

1 submissions.

2 The panel will use the information
3 gathered in the scoping process to help us focus
4 the review, investigate the issues, gather
5 additional information from the public, and
6 ultimately develop conclusions and recommendations
7 for the Minister.

8 Some administrative matters. If you
9 wish to make a presentation today, would you
10 please register at the table at the back of the
11 room, if you haven't already done so.

12 As is our normal practice, we are
13 recording these sessions. Transcripts will be
14 available online in a day or so. And to find
15 those transcripts, you can go to our website and
16 then follow the links.

17 There is also -- for the main round of
18 hearings in March and April, there will be a small
19 participant assistance program, that is small
20 amounts of money available to community groups
21 that wish to put together a presentation for those
22 hearings. If you might be interested in applying
23 for a participant assistance grant, the
24 information is also at the back table.

25 Finally, two things, I would ask that

1 you turn cell phones off, please. Also, I would
2 ask that you not engage in side conversations
3 while people are making presentations to the
4 panel. Thank you very much.

5 We have a list already established of
6 people who have applied, either in the past few
7 days, or earlier this afternoon. The first person
8 on the list is Mr. Bill Harrison. When you're
9 making a presentation, I would ask that you come
10 up to this table at the front, state your name for
11 the record, and then proceed with your
12 presentation. Mr. Harrison?

13 MR. HARRISON: Good afternoon. My
14 name is Bill Harrison. I live just a mile --
15 pardon me, three quarters of a mile south of the
16 village of St. Lupicin, which is south of
17 Altamone, Manitoba, six miles south.

18 I want to thank the Clean Environment
19 Commission here for allowing me to speak my mind
20 here on an issue of great -- it feels of great
21 importance to all Manitobans. And it is a greater
22 watershed for all of us, the watershed comes from
23 the rocky mountains and east. And we should be
24 concerned about the health of our water. That's
25 my primary reason for being here is public health

1 and safety and over-abuse of the environment by
2 increasing growth of the hog industry, which I
3 feel is large enough as it is, and that is my
4 personal feeling. I have nothing against the
5 raising of hogs if it's done in, you know, a safe
6 and humane manner. People have to eat. And
7 people choose to eat pork. I choose to eat pork
8 from smaller producers, if I eat it at all, from
9 people who I know and I trust. And I know they
10 are not raising their animals in total confinement
11 and feeding them feed which is often contaminated,
12 in my mind, with animal byproducts, the over-use
13 of antibiotics and, you know, such heavy metals to
14 put in the feed to fatten them all.

15 But, again, my first concern is water
16 and the overconsumption of it by the hog industry
17 using clean groundwater to feed, cool and wash the
18 barns and liquify the manure.

19 I feel that I.L.O.s should be metered
20 and be paying for the use of water because they
21 are using such huge quantities of it. A much less
22 amount is used to raise a human being than there
23 is to raise a hog.

24 And groundwater is being polluted with
25 high coliform and E. coli bacteria counts are

1 increasing. I found that in my own well. It is
2 pretty hard to trace that back to where it comes
3 from, of course, so there could be other sources,
4 I must admit. But I don't feel the government is
5 doing enough to investigate the quality of our
6 water, groundwater particularly. Those of us in
7 rural Manitoba don't rely on treated water.

8 Okay. And pollution of surface water
9 as well from spring run-off of liquid manure
10 spread in winter on snow, you know, that should be
11 stopped. And then continuing, the pollution of
12 the water, including phosphorus, nitrates and
13 heavy metals and antibiotics from feed and various
14 disease pathogens.

15 The next concern is air quality.

16 A: In barns there is a high concentration of
17 hydrogen sulfide and ammonium, which people
18 breathe and the animals breathe as well, which can
19 damage the health of both of them. And the
20 workers, especially in the winter time, air is not
21 exchanged which is often due to the barn owners
22 not wanting to lose heat. But there is always
23 room for improvement there, one would hope.

24 Now, another concern about air quality
25 is the bad air drifting into neighbour's property

1 and neighbouring towns, communities, et cetera,
2 that could cause harm to the health of young and
3 old; in particular, those with asthma, and other
4 respiratory disease.

5 The air stinks, preventing rural
6 neighbours from enjoying everything from backyard
7 barbecues to community events such as soccer and
8 baseball tournaments, et cetera. And it also
9 prevents people from sleeping with their windows
10 open in the summertime, if they happen to be
11 downwind from these barns.

12 Soil pollution is another concern.
13 Spreading out the hog manure on crop soils has
14 revealed contamination of the matter with heavy
15 metals again, over-application of phosphorus,
16 nitrate, et cetera.

17 4: Manure handling and storage:

18 A: The liquid manure process should be banned to
19 save water quality and volume. There are
20 alternatives. Manure could be, and it is being
21 done -- I noticed a study or an exam being done by
22 some young hog producers, who have bio-tecs north
23 of Treherne. And they are busy working with the
24 province on trying to find a good way to compost
25 the manure. And they are using -- of course, in

1 these barns they are using the straw method of
2 bedding, instead of having animals stand on
3 slotted cement floors and standing above their
4 urine and shit all their lives.

5 And animal cruelty, this is what
6 brings me to animal cruelty. The sow crates
7 should be banned to allow freedom and comfort.
8 Slotted cement floors should be outlawed and
9 animals should be given straw bedding for
10 increased health and comfort. It is not natural
11 for anybody to be standing on cement floors too
12 long. We know that it cripples human feet, never
13 mind the animals that suffer from this. Many of
14 them become crippled up and then they are just
15 discarded.

16 If you've driven much in the country
17 here and gone by the factory barns, you see the
18 pens. There is one nearby me right now and it is
19 overflowing. I mean, if the hog industry could
20 take some advice from me today, you know, get
21 those darn bins cleaned up quickly. It doesn't do
22 anybody good to see that. And it doesn't show
23 that you are really looking after your business
24 properly. A lot of pigs are subject to that air.

25 Factory barns should have windows

1 and/or skylights to permit hogs to enjoy natural
2 sunlight. We even allow our prisoners in our
3 jails yard time and fresh air.

4 Increase fresh air consumption in the
5 factory barns, as in bio-tec barns which are
6 open-ended. And use the straw bedding, again, as
7 I say.

8 Now, give hogs more room in their
9 stalls to prevent stress and fighting.

10 Now, workers protection is another
11 point. Factory barns workers have no protection
12 under Manitoba labour laws, like all other
13 Manitoba workers, because they are wrongly
14 classified as agricultural workers.

15 Factory barns are factory barns. They
16 are not family farm barns. And if you're
17 incorporated you are no longer a family farm. You
18 can't use that as an excuse. When you
19 incorporate, you are a corporation. You are big
20 business. And you cannot use the defense that you
21 are a family farm. It's an oxymoron. You cannot
22 be both.

23 Factory barn workers are also not
24 covered by Workman's Compensation. So if they
25 become ill from accidents or the hydrogen sulphide

1 or ammonia that they are breathing, they are on
2 their own, with only the healthcare system to
3 treat them.

4 Also, I would like to say, number 7,
5 this is a false economy. Hog factories haven't
6 been a great boon to rural communities. They
7 inflict themselves on them. They are mostly built
8 with investor money from anywhere. So profits, if
9 any, can flow out and can go anywhere in the
10 world. But I don't see a lot of it sitting in my
11 neighbourhood, that's for sure.

12 Government investment, that is
13 taxpayer support, in the form of grants and tax
14 breaks, is not a true economy.

15 The Big Sky people that just pulled
16 out of OlyWest, and I am sure there is a lot of
17 pressure from the Government of Saskatchewan,
18 which funds Big Sky over 40 percent of taxpayers'
19 money, you know, that's what runs that company.
20 They have been told that they can't build a plant
21 in Winnipeg, so they have to pull back and do
22 something in Saskatchewan. Because why would
23 Saskatchewan want to send their money and their
24 people's jobs out of the province, after they
25 invested all of that taxpayers' money?

1 Factory barn jobs are blue collar
2 workers, which they are. They are essentially,
3 you know, blue collar workers that are in
4 low-paying and often part-time work due to intense
5 mechanization in these barns. Yes, technology has
6 its place, but it also displaces and also lowers
7 people's wages.

8 Food quality and safety is another
9 point. Because of a steady diet of antibiotics in
10 the feed, the hogs develop antibiotic-resistant
11 strains of bacteria in their guts, which results
12 in difficult treatment of resulting infections
13 from illnesses people get from eating this
14 contaminated meat.

15 In Europe, there again, they are not
16 allowed to use the antibiotics, except to treat
17 the animals that are sick. It's not part of their
18 diet. And it shouldn't be here either. There is
19 no difference between people, human beings in
20 Europe and human beings here. They deserve the
21 same rights.

22 Now also, the meat is genetically
23 manipulated. These hogs are raised because they
24 want to get the best hogs, the most consistent
25 size because it helps run them through the factory

1 more efficiently. But the stressed factory hogs,
2 smelling their own feces and urine, which they
3 stand above all their lives, produces a very
4 questionable quality of meat. I know for one I
5 can't eat that meat because I can smell that
6 excrement in the meat when it's cooking.

7 Social problems are another major
8 issue. As I've indicated just by some of these
9 other issues, hog I.L.O.s disrupts rural
10 lifestyle, that is the quality of life as a result
11 of all of the aforementioned concerns.

12 And then government interference. The
13 Provincial Government blindly promotes the hog
14 industry in Manitoba, in spite of evidence of harm
15 to our environment, water, air, you know, et
16 cetera, air and soil and public resistance. Hog
17 producers are a minority of rural population in a
18 traditionally volatile livestock industry.

19 I have nothing against people making a
20 living. But at least treat these animals with the
21 respect that they deserve because that's what you
22 are eating. And you should be treating yourselves
23 with the same respect. And when you treat these
24 animals, you know, malevolently, you are only
25 hurting yourselves in the long run.

1 The Provincial Government killed Bill
2 40 under public pressure, but re-introduced it as
3 Bill 33, which removed the public right to take
4 councils and governments to court for lack of
5 enforcement of local bylaws and provincial
6 regulations. So much for democracy. All to suit
7 the hog industry.

8 I am not talking about hog farmers,
9 which are at a steady decline. They are a
10 minority in this province now. Small producers
11 have a hard time making a living. It has taken
12 away a lot of living from a lot of family farms.
13 A lot of people just gave up on hogs because they
14 are not efficient enough, according to Maple Leaf,
15 people like Maple Leaf and Leaf Swine, you know,
16 and Hytek, et cetera.

17 Manitoba Conservation is ignoring Farm
18 Practices Guidelines regarding siting of Picardie
19 Farms at St. Lupicin. That's an example of, you
20 know, government disinterest and interference.

21 And Bill 33 also reduced an R.M.'s
22 authority, i.e. the local residents, in approving
23 or rejecting hog factories in their jurisdictions.

24 So if I would make a few suggestions
25 to the panel, I would say:

1 A: Conduct hog production sustainability
2 hearings, you know, under the Manitoba Evidence
3 Act, instead of these meetings, so that citizens
4 can cross-examine information from hog industry
5 proponents and have information put on the record.

6 Interview workers who have suffered
7 illness or injury working in barns and slaughter
8 plants. Also interview people who live around and
9 near factory hog barns.

10 Examine poor fines and lack of
11 enforcement regarding manure stored and improperly
12 spread on parcels of Provincial Government land.

13 Examine the idea of "full cost
14 accounting" of the hog industry, which would
15 include the true cost -- you know, for example,
16 true cost accounting is looking at the environment
17 and social cost, as well as it is just the cost,
18 you know, of the industry itself.

19 Interview environmentalist
20 organizations and individuals as well for their
21 input. These people are not getting paid for what
22 they do. They are people that have heartfelt
23 concerns about the environment and the health of
24 the population, as well as, of course, the
25 animals. You know, they are not all vegetarians.

1 They are not all tree huggers. You know, don't
2 throw names around here. We are all human beings,
3 who I am sure all care about, you know, our
4 animals and ourselves, in particular.

5 The abuse of the democratic process by
6 Manitoba Pork Council lobbyists is unduly
7 influencing underpaid municipal councillors and
8 reeves and CAOs, and I'll stand by that. I can't
9 prove it, but I sure see it in my neighbourhood.
10 I can't see why some poorly paid councillor
11 wouldn't enjoy going for lunch with, you know, the
12 Manitoba Pork Council representative who travels
13 the province attending meetings and promoting the
14 hog industry, leaving pamphlets behind. Sorry, he
15 is paid to do that.

16 People like myself and other concerned
17 citizens, we are not paid. We are just doing this
18 again because of our concern, you know, for the
19 health and welfare of human beings and animals.

20 We should make the Technical Review
21 Committee non-political and make their
22 recommendations true and binding. You know,
23 people, they are just totally ignored. Technical
24 reviews, you might as well throw them out the way
25 they are now.

1 We should investigate the province's
2 role in subsidizing corporate hog production. If
3 the Manitoba Pork Council has multi-millions of
4 dollars in check-off funding annually, they should
5 not need to get financial assistance from the
6 taxpayers. Corporate business is private
7 business. They don't need government assistance.
8 They have got their own money.

9 Take NGO's suggestions seriously and
10 investigate our recommendations and make concrete
11 suggestions to the general -- you know, general
12 public. Call press conferences with your findings
13 after your public hearings.

14 And I would ask that the board, in
15 particular, to investigate the 2004 study in Iowa
16 by an international group of environmental
17 scientists, it's an on-line scientific journal of
18 the U.S. National Institute of Environmental
19 Health Sciences. And there are six reports
20 published in November 2006 in environmental health
21 perspectives there on the site.

22 And search online for the research
23 team leader, Peter Thorne, Director of the
24 University of Iowa's Environmental Health Sciences
25 Research Centre. This is the most up-to-date

1 significant respected research on the hog industry
2 today. So I hope the board will examine that in
3 your future endeavours. And that's it. Thank you
4 very much.

5 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
6 Mr. Harrison.

7 Next on my agenda is Mr. Hugh Arklie.

8 MR. ARKLIE: Good afternoon. My name
9 is Hugh Arklie, formerly from Morden and now
10 presently of the R.M. of Springfield.

11 There are four broad categories that
12 must be included in the analysis of the hog
13 industry in Manitoba that purports to be thorough.
14 They are:

- 15 1. Environmental degradation
- 16 2. Human illness
- 17 3. Animal cruelty
- 18 4. Social discord

19 Environmental degradation includes
20 air, soil and water pollution. Examples are
21 hydrogen sulfide in plumes, heavy metals in the
22 soil and antibiotics in the water. Our erstwhile
23 cavalier attitude towards such degradation must
24 change.

25 Human illness results from

1 environmental degradation. People get sick from
2 chronic exposure to hydrogen sulfide. When they
3 eat meat tainted with sub-therapeutic antibiotics,
4 they develop resistance to curative antibiotics
5 and have greater difficulty fighting infections.
6 Why do we tolerate, even invite, such illness?
7 Any review of human illness should also include
8 the dangers to factory workers, killing plant
9 labourers and mental anguish suffered by the
10 neighbours of hog factories.

11 Animal cruelty is rampant in hog
12 factories. Sows are brutally treated, piglets are
13 taken from their mothers prematurely, and pigs are
14 kept in crowded, sunless factories. These animals
15 are deprived of their natural behaviours. And in
16 treating them cruelly, we deny our own superior
17 humanity. As a lawful society, we can get away
18 with this because our leaders, upon the
19 supplication of corporations, have written laws
20 that sanitize cruelty to animals, as long as
21 cruelty to animals is ordinarily a technique used
22 to make a profit. The Animal Care Act, which
23 encourages and condones cruelty to farm animals,
24 should be struck down and re-written in the
25 context of humaneness.

1 Few of your presenters will raise the
2 issue of social discord, yet this is the primary
3 reason why the "pause" or "temporary moratorium"
4 has been established. The hog industry has
5 violated its privileges. Starting in 1976 it was
6 exempted from civil behaviour by the Nuisance Act.
7 In 1992, the Farm Practices Protection Act
8 superseded the Nuisance act, and hog factories
9 have used this legislation to avoid its social
10 responsibilities.

11 The provincial civil service also
12 contributes to social discord by invariably being
13 the champion and mouthpiece of the industry. This
14 moratorium must question why the public service no
15 longer serves the public? Why are Technical
16 Review Committees the exclusive domain of civil
17 servants? Why is enforcement sparse and penalties
18 sparing? Why do senior civil servants end up in
19 management at the Manitoba Pork Council? How do
20 they relate and interact with their former
21 colleagues in the public service?

22 The Environment Act and The
23 Sustainable Development Act make numerous
24 references to social issues and human wellness.
25 In my experience, Environmental Impact Assessments

1 that invoke these sections of these Acts are rare,
2 indeed. I trust that the Clean Environment
3 Commission will include these issues in the
4 subsequent public meetings that are to be held in
5 March or April.

6 Finally, I need to know the number.
7 What number, you ask? The number of pigs that
8 will be the upper limit to be raised in Manitoba.
9 Today it is approximately nine million. Is that
10 the limit? Is the limit ten million? Should it
11 be six million? Can it be twenty million? The
12 hog industry, politicians, public servants and
13 citizens must answer the question of capacity. It
14 is self-evident and unavoidable that there is a
15 ceiling on this industry's impact. We must
16 identify that capacity before the moratorium is
17 lifted. I want to know the number. I want to
18 know it because we cannot grow our way to
19 sustainability.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
21 Mr. Arklie. Thank you very much for your
22 presentation this afternoon.

23 Is Ann Marie Gray here?

24 MS. GRAY: Good afternoon. Thank you
25 for having me.

1 My name is Ann Marie Gray. I live in
2 St. Lupicin in the old rectory. And I have
3 recently purchased the old craft gallery in St.
4 Lupicin. And if I look in the tourism handbook, I
5 see that it's still being advertised for the
6 Pembina Valley.

7 Now, my concerns for the area that I
8 live in are three: the water, the air and the
9 dust. And I didn't know where to go to talk about
10 these things, but then now I know I'm at the right
11 place, because this is a Clean Environment
12 Commission.

13 So about the water, I had the water
14 tested and it's polluted. We're under boil
15 advisory. I also go to the Altima Community Club
16 and visit with the seniors. And I see there is a
17 big sign over the taps that say that you cannot
18 use that water because it's under boil advisory.

19 The smell is something else. I live
20 about half a mile from the pig farm, or industry,
21 or whatever you want to call it. What I
22 understand is the lagoon gets covered, or maybe
23 it's not even covered right now, but with straw.
24 Well, we have lots of wind in our area. I guess
25 that's why the area was chosen for the wind

1 turbines. And so straw doesn't stay put very
2 long, so I don't think it's a very effective way
3 of trying to keep smell down.

4 And then that dust from the big
5 trucks, the semis that go day and night to that
6 location, whether it's hauling pigs or feed or
7 whatever. And the dust is -- well, you can't keep
8 windows open for sure in the summertime for the
9 dust and the smell.

10 So I don't know who is responsible for
11 keeping the dust downwind or the smell or even the
12 water. And with having purchased the gallery, I
13 used to own a tea room. And I was kind of hoping
14 that I would be able to have, even if it's, you
15 know, homemade soup and stuff like that available
16 in the gallery. But now do you think that the
17 Department of Health would let me have a little
18 tea room with contaminated water? Anyways, come
19 by my place in the summertime and come and see,
20 see if I'm allowed to do that. I want to thank
21 you very much.

22 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Could I
23 just ask you, Ms. Gray, your source of water, is
24 that your own well or is it municipal?

25 MS. GRAY: It's a well. It's the well

1 water.

2 THE COMMISSIONER: Is it your own well
3 or is it a municipal water system?

4 MS. GRAY: It's my own well, but I
5 don't know where the municipal water system is.
6 Is there such a thing?

7 THE COMMISSIONER: That's what I was
8 asking. I guess not. Okay, thank you.

9 Next is Mr. Hans Borst.

10 MR. BORST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 I am a livestock producer and on our farm we
12 produce dairy and beef.

13 THE COMMISSIONER: Sorry, Mr. Borst,
14 could you introduce yourself for the record,
15 please?

16 MR. BORST: I am Hans Borst.

17 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

18 MR. BORST: And I am a livestock
19 producer of dairy and beef.

20 And I am here today to talk to the
21 Clean Environment Commission about the importance
22 of an environmentally sustainable livestock
23 production, including hog production in Manitoba.

24 All livestock producers in Manitoba
25 are governed by some of the strictest

1 environmental regulations in Canada and North
2 America. The Minister of Conservation himself
3 made this claim in December of 2006. Livestock
4 producers have participated in the development of
5 the Livestock Manure and Mortality Management
6 Regulations and their amendments. We are pleased
7 that the Manitoba government has sought the input
8 of livestock producers and included many of our
9 suggestions for the practical improvement of early
10 drafts of these regulations and in the development
11 of the final regulations.

12 We, the livestock sector in Manitoba,
13 are well aware of the need for clean water for
14 humans and livestock, the need for soil nutrients
15 for the production of grains and oilseeds, for
16 clean air and for the protection of the
17 environment.

18 Manitoba livestock producers have
19 become the best managers of their diverse
20 industries and exceed all of North America by
21 being in compliance with these regulations for
22 water, soil, nutrients and air.

23 Why? They have to be in compliance.
24 Regulations for developing and operating livestock
25 operations are such that livestock operations are

1 in compliance with our scientific based
2 regulations.

3 2: They can be in compliance. The
4 wide open spaces, the vast distances to population
5 centers, and the nearly unlimited need for
6 nutrients for tens of thousands of acres of crop
7 and pasture land, the abundance and efficiency of
8 feed growing on the prairies are the envy of
9 livestock producers around the world.

10 It is in the livestock producers' best
11 interests to be in compliance for a number of
12 reasons. Most livestock producers live where they
13 have their operations. Nutrient manure
14 management, according to regulations, is the most
15 economical way of managing minerals and feeding
16 crops.

17 4: It would be a disaster for the
18 environment if we push an industry which is
19 compliant with our regulations out of rural
20 Manitoba. It does not make any common sense to
21 transport our livestock feed grains around the
22 world and bring back fertilizer to grow the same
23 feeds. At the same time, we are burning fossil
24 fuels for transportation and are giving up on the
25 value of turning pork, a meat commodity, into a

1 consumer-ready product.

2 The Clean Environment Commission has
3 called these scoping meetings "to ensure that the
4 review includes issues of importance to all
5 Manitobans," to quote your own website.

6 The issues that are of prime
7 importance to me are, first, that the Clean
8 Environment Commission should only review those
9 issues that have an impact on the environment as
10 requested by the Minister.

11 Second, to be more specific, the
12 review should focus on the interaction of the
13 Manitoba hog production industry with the soil,
14 water and air. There is a recent nutrient
15 management research which is nearing completion
16 that should form an integral part of the Clean
17 Environment Commission review. Manitoba research
18 is much more credible than information imported
19 from elsewhere. The University of Manitoba
20 agriculture and food sciences should be your
21 primary source of Manitoba information.

22 Third, the timing of the Clean
23 Environment Commission's review and final report
24 are an important issue. The whole livestock
25 industry in Manitoba, especially the Manitoba hog

1 industry, are living under a cloud. Please
2 proceed with the review in a timely way to ensure
3 that the uncertainty that has been imposed on the
4 Manitoba livestock industry can be removed and
5 further investment in Manitoba's livestock
6 industry is not inhibited any longer than
7 necessary.

8 Thank you for this opportunity to
9 present my ideas.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very
11 much, Mr. Borst.

12 And Ab Freig?

13 MR. FREIG: Thank you. My name is Ab
14 Freig. I am the President and CEO of the Puratone
15 Corporation. I want to thank you for the
16 opportunity to present, on behalf of my company,
17 and the hundreds of employees, shareholders and
18 independent producers who make up our company,
19 Puratone.

20 Let me first give you a brief
21 description of Puratone. We are a major swine
22 production company operating mainly in Manitoba.
23 The company was founded in Niverville in 1973 by
24 local people of approximately 10. We now employ
25 360 people who work on farms, feed mill, do

1 trucking and working in the office. Our current
2 payroll exceeds \$10 million a year and is mostly
3 spent in rural Manitoba.

4 The company owns and manages
5 approximately 46,000 sows in numerous locations in
6 Manitoba.

7 Let me speak to you about Puratone's
8 commitment to the environment. Puratone has a
9 strong and genuine commitment to the environment.
10 We are committed to be a leader in the
11 environmental field.

12 Our commitment stems from our
13 conviction that the environment must be protected
14 for our generation, our children and
15 grandchildren's generation and many generations to
16 come. We also believe it is good business and it
17 is in our best interests to be good stewards of
18 the land.

19 We believe in the strong link between
20 community well-being and the protection of the
21 environment. Our employees, our shareholders and
22 our families live in close proximity to most of
23 our facilities. We also enjoy and use for leisure
24 the lakes and river systems in Manitoba. We are
25 committed to working with the local and provincial

1 governments and our colleagues in the industry
2 towards progressive and sustainable regulations,
3 guidelines and best practices.

4 To further demonstrate our commitment
5 to the environment, we have subjected our
6 environmental management system to the rigorous
7 international standards of the ISO for 14001
8 program. Our environmental management system gets
9 audited every year by a third party independent
10 auditors.

11 I want to take this opportunity to
12 invite members of the CEC to visit any of our
13 facilities to gain firsthand experience of the
14 procedures and our commitment to the environment.

15 We consider the manure produced by the
16 hog barns as a nutrient resource that needs to be
17 applied correctly to yield the maximum benefit for
18 the crops. We do not consider it waste and we
19 don't treat it as such.

20 Our manure is applied with the
21 appropriate quantity to benefit the plants and to
22 prevent any build-up or run-offs. The manure is
23 injected, wherever possible, to again maximize the
24 plant uptake and minimize any possibility of
25 run-offs or odour.

1 Now, I want to speak about our view of
2 the CEC investigation. First of all, I want to
3 say that Puratone welcomes the CEC audit of the
4 swine industry. Puratone has a high regard to the
5 work and objectivity of the CEC.

6 We welcome a fact-based and objective
7 review of our industry.

8 We don't agree with the Manitoba
9 government -- we don't agree that the Manitoba
10 government needed to impose a pause on the new
11 construction of hog barns while you conduct your
12 audit. However, we are fully committed to
13 cooperate with the CEC to assist you in making
14 sound and fact-based recommendations.

15 And here is our expectations and
16 recommendations to the CEC. The process must be
17 conducted in a timely manner. The industry cannot
18 afford the uncertainty resulting from this pause.
19 The longer the process, the more damage to the
20 industry's current and long-term prospective.

21 The hog industry is a \$1 billion
22 industry to the Manitoba economy. The industry
23 directly employees more than 15,000 people in
24 Manitoba. You must take into account the impact
25 of the delay on the lives of those people and

1 their families.

2 Secondly, the review must be
3 objective, fact and science based. The Committee
4 must carefully review the available science-based
5 information and must avoid the pressure from
6 interested groups and media. It must be fact
7 based and based on science.

8 The Committee should work diligently
9 to understand the nature of the Manitoba
10 environment and to gain understanding of the
11 environmental procedures utilized by the industry.
12 You must be able to understand how the industry
13 functions today and understand how that relates to
14 the Manitoba environment and landscape.

15 Third, the process must be fair and
16 balanced. The people that are working directly in
17 the industry, who will be directly impacted by the
18 recommendations of the CEC, must be involved in
19 providing the pertinent information you need as
20 part of your review.

21 Fourth, the CEC must focus on the
22 environmental sustainability of the hog industry
23 in Manitoba.

24 I wanted to also take a minute to talk
25 about the scope, what our company's understanding

1 of what your scope is, and what's your mandate.
2 Our understanding is that your scope includes the
3 review of the environmental regulations, current
4 and proposed.

5 Your review of the hog industry: Your
6 review -- you must be also reviewing the industry
7 practices and guidelines. After reviewing the
8 environmental regulations currently proposed, the
9 industry practices and guidelines, you would need
10 to determine the impact of the industry practices
11 and regulations on water quality.

12 Our understanding from when the
13 Premier made the announcement, or the government
14 made the announcement and discussion with
15 Ministers and the Premier, is that the
16 understanding was the government was mostly
17 concerned about water. The government was mostly
18 concerned about water, concerned about phosphorus
19 and the impact on Lake Winnipeg, and that should
20 form the majority of your review of the industry.

21 What it cannot be getting bogged down
22 with is reviewing animal welfare, labour
23 practices, property values and many other things
24 that have nothing to do with the environment.
25 There are many other regulations that govern that.

1 So, in summary, we welcome the CEC
2 review of the industry. We look forward to
3 working with CEC to arrive at an objective and
4 sound review. Thank you very much for the
5 opportunity.

6 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
7 Mr. Freig. Thank you for your presentation this
8 afternoon.

9 Next Mr. Gordon Orchard.

10 MR. ORCHARD: Thank you for the
11 opportunity. My name is Gordon Orchard. I farm
12 in Miami in the escarpment here. And, I'm sorry,
13 I don't have a written copy of what I'm about to
14 say.

15 THE COMMISSIONER: That's fine. We
16 will be transcribing it.

17 MR. ORCHARD: Part of my concerns stem
18 from farming and also from my years -- I am part
19 of the Deerwood Soil and Water Management
20 Association. This is officially from the
21 Association. But part of my experience comes from
22 sitting on that board for over 20 years and the
23 environmental work that we have done in our
24 watershed and my experiences come from that work
25 taken on my own farm.

1 Deerwood Soil and Water has been
2 investigating our farming practices and the
3 environment in the Tobacco Creek watershed for
4 over 20 years. Mainly we started out on
5 hydrology. And we have since moved into water
6 quality and the impact our farm practices have on
7 manure, livestock operations, our fertilizer,
8 tillage. We are trying to take the long look at
9 what impact we've had over the long-term water
10 quality of Tobacco Creek, which relates then into
11 water quality in Lake Winnipeg.

12 And in hearing that this Clean
13 Environment Commission was going to investigate
14 the sustainability of the hog industry, I note
15 that the Brundtland Commission, in their
16 definitions of sustainable development, and their
17 working through that whole issue really emphasizes
18 that environmental indicators are needed in that
19 whole process in order to form any opinion on
20 sustainability of an industry or in the
21 environment. And I really wonder what
22 environmental indicators they have been using and
23 how they have been established and what data they
24 come from.

25 One thing we have learned in our dual

1 project over the years is how much we don't know.
2 As we work through our years of data and you try
3 and relate that to a farm practice, you try and
4 model different things. And we find, as we're
5 going along, how much we assume. "We" meaning
6 from the society, from the scientists that are
7 involved in our project, to farmers at our board
8 table, how much we assume we know and how much
9 little we really do know that's factual and how
10 much we have got to learn yet in the process.

11 And one example, when I went through
12 university and we were taught the good practices
13 of farming, phosphate was a totally immobile
14 element that stays wholly where you put it. And
15 one of the issues we have found, in the last five
16 years of research, is this whole thing of
17 dissolved phosphates. And phosphates are a much
18 more mobile element than we ever gave credit for.
19 And it seems to be coming out of vegetation,
20 that's naturally occurring vegetation we leave on
21 our soil as we farm, coming out of our residues
22 from manure application, to the leaves that fall
23 off the trees.

24 And I'm really worried that this whole
25 big concern about the water quality in Lake

1 Winnipeg and phosphates. We don't recognize how
2 much is naturally occurring or might even be a
3 function of our change in our ground cover over
4 the long term.

5 And the last thing we should be
6 considering in this province is attacking the
7 problem with the wrong data. And I am really
8 worried that might be part of what we are doing
9 here, especially when, I think, if I remember some
10 of the numbers we kicked around, phosphates tagged
11 to the hog industry are one percent of Lake
12 Winnipeg's sources. And yet we are doing nothing
13 with the phosphates that are coming out of all of
14 the municipal and city sewage lagoons that are
15 mainlined into our water streams.

16 I noticed that the Morden one here, in
17 the advertisement for the expansion of the lagoon,
18 the discharge was dependent on stream flow. And
19 there is no allowance for any of our municipal
20 discharge. It just goes from the thing is full
21 and when the stream is running. And that's
22 exactly the opposite to what we are being told in
23 agriculture that we need to do with our MMP
24 residues. If we lose it, it's a source of
25 pollution. And I wonder why, on the urban side,

1 which is anywhere from 15 to 25 percent of the
2 lake's phosphorus, it isn't even up for
3 consideration right now.

4 Another thing that I worry on this
5 whole, looking at the hog industry right now,
6 putting a moratorium on these large operations.
7 They have to do soil testing and a manure
8 management plan. They inject their manure. This
9 is probably state-of-the-art manure handling that
10 as a cattle producer I envy. And I think it is
11 probably one of the safer environmental practices.

12 And yet if we believe the reason for
13 this review is that this is a bad practice, and it
14 must be if it's not sustainable, then what does it
15 mean for 50 years of extension information that we
16 have received from Manitoba Agriculture and all of
17 our university research and all of the advice that
18 we have been given as farmers on how to handle our
19 manure?

20 I really am concerned about this issue
21 that if you're going to look at the sustainable
22 practices, then you had better get the whole
23 Extension Department of Manitoba Agriculture to
24 give a real run-through of what's the
25 justification for the practices that we have set

1 up and run with it to this point, which makes me
2 conclude that I think that the Commission Review
3 of the hog industry is kind of misdirected. And I
4 wonder about the politics of it all. But that's
5 not the issue, I guess.

6 I would like to emphasize that the
7 whole process should be science based. We
8 absolutely need more research on the sources of
9 our pollutants in the water. We need to know
10 where they are coming from. We need to know that
11 the advice we give agriculture should be science
12 based as well, so that we know that we are doing
13 the right thing.

14 And I guess that's about all I would
15 like to say. And thanks for your time.

16 Oh, I guess I will add, there is part
17 of our project, the WEBS project in Deerwood which
18 is studying best management practices on a farm
19 scale. And the data that's going to come out of
20 that in the next few years I think would be a
21 really good guide for the Commission to use on how
22 agriculture practices do actually impact on the
23 environment, because we're working with long-term
24 data and very carefully monitoring measured
25 practice application to results.

1 And the whole kind of moratorium right
2 now to me is misplaced. If we would have waited a
3 few more years and got more of the science done,
4 maybe that would be a better reason for the
5 moratorium. Thanks.

6 THE COMMISSIONER: I am just quite
7 intrigued by your last comment about this, what
8 did you call it, a WEBS?

9 MR. ORCHARD: It's called a WEBS
10 project.

11 THE COMMISSIONER: WEB?

12 MR. ORCHARD: WEBS. And I will just
13 give you the background here. Actually, our
14 Deerwood Soil and Water Management Association is
15 considering possibly presenting at your full
16 hearings in March. And we can actually do more of
17 a presentation on that project at that time. But
18 it's a joint Federal/Provincial University of
19 Manitoba project where they are looking at the
20 field farm practices and changes in management
21 practices on a piece of land. And they are
22 collecting all of the run-off that comes off of it
23 and then comparing it to the before and after and
24 trying to see what is the environmental impact of
25 soil on a piece of land or applying manure year to

1 year on this piece, or whatever farm practice that
2 is being done. So it is one of six projects all
3 across Canada. And we have it right at our local
4 watershed here. And in Manitoba, I think it's the
5 absolute guideline for giving us some real good
6 hard information on good practices.

7 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I really
8 think we should hear more about it. It sounds
9 quite intriguing. It's the type of thing that we
10 have been asked to look for and look for
11 alternative methods as well.

12 MR. ORCHARD: And going back to my
13 comment on the environmental indicators, I really
14 question whether we have got any that are
15 reliable.

16 Some of the data out of Lake Winnipeg,
17 I understand, the water samples aren't even taken
18 until last year. So you are trying to compare
19 sample results to watersheds that are so diverse
20 and so large, with so many different players in
21 it, that I don't know how you can single out one
22 industry and say that they are the ones we have
23 got to go after. And everybody has got a concern
24 for water quality, but we have got to do this
25 right.

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Hopefully we can
2 play a small part in doing it right. Thank you
3 very much, Mr. Orchard.

4 Ms. Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles?

5 MR. CORCELLES: Good afternoon. My
6 name is Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles. I live in St.
7 Adolphe. The Kennedy family was a mixed family,
8 farm family for generations in the Westburn area.
9 And my husband's family, the Courcelles family,
10 has been large grain operators, and one of the
11 first intensified livestock operating families in
12 St. Agathe in the R.M. of Richot.

13 I live one mile north of the Glenlea
14 Research Station, the University of Manitoba
15 Glenlea Research Station. And within a five mile
16 radius we probably have 50 intensive livestock
17 operators, so this is why I am here today.

18 Dear Chairperson, panelists, ladies
19 and gentlemen, I am here today on behalf of those
20 who do not have a voice or for those that are
21 afraid to use theirs. I speak on behalf of you --
22 I speak to you on behalf of the water energy,
23 mother nature, the animal kingdom, spirit energy
24 and our future generations in Manitobans.

25 The very fact that we are holding the

1 Clean Environment Commission meetings all over
2 this province in hope of finding solutions to help
3 this re-balance of our hog production industry is
4 both exciting, because things are changing, and
5 yet very, very sad because things have gotten so
6 out of control at the same time.

7 We ask ourselves these questions:

8 Why do things have to escalate to these red flag
9 drastic measures?

10 What signs have we been turning our cheeks on?

11 What state of conditions are our hogs in?

12 What state of condition is our sacred water in?

13 Why have we ignored the growing state of stress
14 and uneasiness in our urban and rural communities
15 regarding the increase in hog production, its
16 excess waste and odour and its negative effects
17 onto society?

18 What does all of this mean for a healthy
19 environmental sustainability?

20 What does all this mega-sizing mean for our small
21 entrepreneur and our farmer?

22 What does all of this waste mean for our wildlife
23 and our fish stocks?

24 Why do these toxic -- what do these toxic gases do
25 to our quality of air, for our birds, our

1 butterflies and our babies?
2 Why does all of this cloning, drugging,
3 artificially inseminating, tweaking, mega-sizing,
4 growth hormones, crating, prodding, transporting
5 do to our overall health and safety for the hogs
6 and for the people in our environment?

7 Is this the kind of meat that we really wish to
8 pass on to our grandchildren?

9 Is this waste coming off these hogs the kind that
10 is environmentally sustainable for our land, air,
11 water and people?

12 Are we not just building huge houses
13 of cards with these mega bubble hog operations
14 where the inside environment does not reflect the
15 outside environment at all? Like the scientific
16 biosphere experiment that failed, this too will
17 not last.

18 Have we not allowed economic gains and
19 increases in production rates overshadow the
20 common sense and overall sustainable health of a
21 meat source for society?

22 We have killed the pig's immune
23 system. We have allowed mass production to reduce
24 the hog to a chiller thriller experiment where the
25 poor beast has its dignity and respect stripped

1 from it. Starting at its very inception, to its
2 fast-tracked, drug and force-fed life that has
3 increased its size beyond common sense while, at
4 the same time, reducing its waste. This seems to
5 be reflecting our increase in obesity and colon
6 cancer in our youth and society as a whole.

7 The bubble experiment failed in the
8 world of science. And I dare to say that these
9 mega barns of bubble-biosphere hog production are
10 failing here as well. We don't have to go very
11 far into Canada or Europe to find out this truth.

12 Environmental sustainability is all
13 about equality and respect for every part of the
14 whole or else the whole thing will break down.
15 Well, we have broken down here in Manitoba. Our
16 water can no longer take that waste that we are
17 exposing it to. The bubble animal production
18 systems of removing the natural from the animals
19 are systems that have also broken down and are
20 doomed to fail the people and our healthy
21 sustainable future.

22 The animals need to be returned to
23 their natural ways, in their natural environments,
24 or this accumulation of disease and dis-ease shall
25 spread much further than the signs of distress

1 that we are currently experiencing here in
2 Manitoba, Quebec and Ontario.

3 What further scoping factors do we
4 need to look at now to get our hog production
5 industry back in line with the environmental
6 sustainability?

7 1: Use science and other factors to
8 tell the difference between which meat is safest
9 and most environmentally sustainable for our
10 collective future. The meat coming out of the
11 enclosed bubble hog barns or the meat coming out
12 of the organic free range pigs? Which way should
13 we be moving towards in our future and which
14 production system should we get phased out like
15 old toxic technology?

16 2: Test and monitor the surface,
17 ground and aquifer water surrounding those areas
18 of intense livestock hog operators and record the
19 findings to be analyzed by science and used as
20 barometers of health and sustainability. And fine
21 the operators accordingly if the water is
22 contaminated, if not closing down their operations
23 all together.

24 3: Set up and enforce strict laws and
25 regulations to inhibit global, national,

1 corporate, mutual fund and other investments into
2 livestock hog production that is harmful to the
3 environmental sustainability of Manitoba, and
4 specifically to the water.

5 4: Phase out all intensified
6 livestock operations out of the flood areas of the
7 province and out of the protected ecological
8 areas, protect the water, wildlife and fauna
9 habitat. No waste spreading of any type in the
10 flooded or protected areas.

11 5: Eliminate winter manure spreading
12 starting in 2008.

13 6: Regulate and utilize the straw
14 method of raising the animals again, phasing out
15 all other methods as they are not natural or
16 sustainable for the long-term health of the hog or
17 the workers.

18 7: Eliminate the release of liquid
19 manure into pipes that are put underground and let
20 go of at any time of the year. These hot toxic
21 wastes are carrying far too much deadly active
22 bacteria and drugs to be let go of directly into
23 the ground, and especially near water sources,
24 like we are seeing along the Assiniboine River.
25 They also cause fog patches that are deathly to

1 the wildlife and to the society. Example number
2 one, the highway between Winnipeg and Portage La
3 Prairie.

4 8: Study the long-term safety and
5 quality of life that the people who work in the
6 food processing plants are enduring and make the
7 necessary changes to alleviate these physical and
8 mental burdens that mega-sizing the industry has
9 put on them. For the environmental
10 sustainability, we need to make necessary changes
11 to bring back respect, dignity and honour to the
12 workers and to the animals. If you have no one
13 able to work or want to go work in these death
14 factories, then you have no need for the meat and
15 no need for the livestock-hog production and
16 nothing to review because there is nothing in the
17 environment and sustainability has scoped itself
18 out.

19 9: 13.5 years to receive the
20 essential basic information regarding the
21 livestock-hog industry and the physical
22 environment is not accepted by the people, First
23 Nations, animals, spirit energy, nor by future
24 generations. This is a top priority and mandated
25 already by the Environment Act and the

1 Sustainability Development Act. 13.5 years is not
2 an acceptable timeframe for any stakeholder. The
3 Department of Conservation is expected to comply
4 much sooner or the hog ban stays on for that long,
5 too.

6 10: Of course animal welfare shall be
7 included in the scope for as we, the people, read
8 it and understand it, the Minister and leaders
9 want to know if the hogs are environmentally
10 sustainable. How else will we know if we don't
11 look at the animal welfare? Implement surprise
12 spot-checks with Winnipeg Humane Society, Animal
13 Watch, Pork Council and the CEC altogether to
14 verify the varying stages of the animal's life in
15 their different environments and how they are
16 doing. Are the conditions acceptable,
17 sustainable, reasonable, respectful, dignified and
18 humane? Would it pass the test of the approval of
19 our elderly, a kindergarten class, our teenagers,
20 our First Nations people, our health inspectors or
21 the zoo keepers?

22 11: Ban the gestation stalls and all
23 other stalls. The statement to the CEC that this
24 tight 24/7 hour lockup is good and safe for the
25 sow is absurd. When I was pregnant with our two

1 girls, I was as big as a sow. And for my own
2 safety and the safety of my vagina, thank God my
3 husband did not confine me to a metal crate with
4 slats for my waste in case I got into a fight with
5 another pregnant female. This barbaric locking up
6 of a very intelligent, clean, nesting and
7 nurturing, two DNA strands away from being a human
8 being, days are over. If a farmer cannot afford
9 to offer the pig some more space in a natural
10 instinctual habitat, with straw to root in and
11 collect their waste, then that farmer cannot meet
12 the environmental sustainability standards for our
13 children's futures.

14 12: The Clean Environment Commission
15 would benefit from setting up a 1-800 telephone
16 number, 24/7 telephone line/answering machine
17 where the public could phone in and tell their
18 details of the environmental truths that they
19 know, but are too afraid and intimidated to show
20 up at public meetings or hearings too. It is
21 very, very hard to talk about your family or your
22 boss or your neighbour, or whoever else these
23 loved ones are. This number should be well
24 advertised on your website permanently as the
25 commissioners of a clean environment. Perhaps you

1 could also run an e-mail talk-back address, too.

2 13: Protect the water from being
3 overused and under-paid, as well as polluted from
4 the intensified livestock-hog industry. Water
5 quality monitoring is needed, and effective
6 enforcement of the Environment Act and the Water
7 Protections Act and water tables and aquifers
8 should be monitored as well.

9 14: Environmental sustainability will
10 only be possible when mega-sizing operators
11 incorporate our original heritage farming
12 techniques such as utilizing straw, family podding
13 and free-ranging in a pig's natural environment,
14 including trees to provide the pig shade and
15 shelter. In our sustainable future, this is the
16 only type of animal production system that shall
17 be allowed. All other systems shall fail and we
18 shall be left to collectively clean up these
19 short-sighted, diseased, water polluting
20 facilities. Just take another -- just look to the
21 other jurisdictions to see if I am telling the
22 truth.

23 15: Plant tree lines all around
24 livestock operations to help filter the air and
25 the toxins and to provide shelters.

1 16: Greenhouse gases, what
2 contribution comes from the hog industry, what are
3 they doing to reduce it?

4 17: Transportation. What is the
5 accident rate of transporting all of these hogs to
6 the market? The Manitoba Public Insurance could
7 help you out with that. And, as well, what is the
8 humane treatment of the hogs in transport?

9 18: Liability. Will and how will the
10 hog industry, Pork Council, et cetera, be held
11 accountable financially and ethically to the
12 negative effects that can come out of hearings
13 like these under our current laws and regulations
14 or in their actions in the future?

15 19: Does the Clean Environment
16 Commission or the Department of Conservation of
17 the Manitoba Provincial Government have legal
18 power for accountability and liability over
19 corporate, mutual fund, individual shares and
20 foreign investment into the livestock hog-industry
21 and factory farms when the Provincial and Canadian
22 environmental sustainability is threatened, under
23 stress, abused, or the negative cumulative effects
24 upon society; for example, water quality and
25 environmental health effects.

1 20: Does the factory farm and
2 intensified livestock operators have liability
3 insurance or indemnity bonds before licensing
4 them?

5 21: For the Clean Environment
6 Commission to look at restricting, limiting the
7 numbers and types of hog operators that may cause
8 adverse cumulative effects, especially in certain
9 parts of the province; for example, in the flood
10 areas and in the protected areas.

11 22: If a hog operation is found
12 guilty of an environmental infraction, for
13 example, contaminated wells or creeks, what
14 actions are they responsible for to put into place
15 or restore the environment back into a sustainable
16 future?

17 23: The Planning and Development Act
18 or the old Bill 33 is inadequate for the current
19 rate of hogs in Manitoba and the approvable
20 process in relation to environmental
21 sustainability. This must be a part of this
22 scoping exercise as well.

23 24: Take a good close look at the
24 definition of pollutant in the Environment Act as
25 the waste, odour and quality of the meat often

1 falls under this jurisdiction.

2 25: Under the Environment Act,
3 "environment" means:

4 "A: Air, land and water, or;

5 B: Plant and animal life, including
6 humans. As stated in the Act, the
7 intent of the Act is to develop and
8 maintain an environmental management
9 system in Manitoba which will ensure
10 that the environment is maintained in
11 such a manner as to sustain a high
12 quality of life, including social and
13 economic development, recreation and
14 leisure for this and future
15 generations."

16 26: Under The Sustainable Development
17 Act, it reads:

18 "Sustainability means the capacity of
19 a thing, action, activity or process
20 to be maintained indefinitely in a
21 manner consistent with the spirit of
22 the principles and guidelines.

23 'Sustainable development' means
24 meeting the needs of the present
25 without compromising the ability of

1 the future generations to meet their
2 own needs.

3 'Sustainable yield' means the
4 harvesting, extraction or use of a
5 renewable resource at a rate or in an
6 amount that does not exceed the
7 growth, regeneration or replacement of
8 the source."

9 All issues of concerned citizens fall
10 under these scopes.

11 27: Modern-day medicine uses the pig
12 heart to do heart surgery for humans. This very
13 fact alone should be our wake-up call to have the
14 respect and decency to mandate, regulate and
15 enforce more natural space, fresh air, sun, rain,
16 snow and wind on their backs, freedom to come and
17 go, straw and other raw materials for these family
18 oriented life-giving creatures of God. My
19 grandparents would be devastated and disgusted at
20 how these factory farms treat their animals today.
21 These I.L.O.s are not our heritage and they are
22 not our sustainable future.

23 28: The piglets and all pigs
24 absolutely have to be mandated to have more space,
25 straw and their natural outdoor-indoor come and go

1 environment returned back to them. And in a short
2 time, the society will see their immune system
3 will toughen up again and the operators shall be
4 able to phase out the cowardly dependency on the
5 costly drugs and administration of these
6 fear-based products. Whose idea was this in the
7 first place, the drug or the feed companies?
8 Drugs should be rarely used, just in case of
9 emergencies, just like you do for yourself.

10 29: In looking closely at the
11 environmental sustainability of the hog industry,
12 society is very concerned about the increasing
13 signs on how much antibiotics there is in our
14 water supply and how our bodies, and even our
15 babies, are becoming immune to the drugs and how
16 the diseases have super-strength and are immune to
17 the antibiotics. They are linking it to the food
18 we eat as well. This is not sustainability.

19 30: The recent research from the
20 University of Manitoba's student, Jennifer Magoon,
21 illustrated that pesticides, insecticides,
22 herbicides and fungicides are having negative
23 health effects on the rural residents, including
24 birth defects, respiratory and eye infections,
25 also bring up concerns over the ripple effects of

1 the livestock-hog industry as it relates to our
2 fellow Manitobans. Living in the country could
3 cost you and your baby's health right now. And
4 that's got to stop.

5 Some short points, to be also included
6 in the scope as they affect Manitoba's
7 environmental sustainability and development are:

- 8 A: Animal welfare;
9 handling and transporting;
10 barn locations;
11 insurance and fire safety;
12 air quality within the barns;
13 slaughtering and food processing industry;
14 health and safety for the animals, people, land,
15 air, water and plants;
16 labour relations and local recruitment
17 difficulties;
18 property depreciation;
19 rural and community discord;
20 urban concerns;
21 animal-hog and human disease concerns and facts;
22 gestation crates and crates of any kind have to be
23 banned;
24 overcrowding of the pigs;
25 economic sustainability and liability;

1 antibiotic resistance and residue in the waste,
2 land, air, water and meat supplies;
3 greenhouse gases and I.L.O. accountability;
4 other jurisdictions' knowledge and experiences and
5 the science coming from the European Union,
6 Sweden, Florida, Arizona, North Carolina and
7 Quebec;
8 the University of Manitoba Glenlea Research
9 Station findings;
10 the University of Winnipeg and Brandon's research
11 on the hogs and Lake Winnipeg and water quality;
12 the Water Protection Act and the Water Quality
13 Management Zone regulations;
14 Health Canada and the Department of Fisheries and
15 Oceans;
16 past reports and research done in this province;
17 moral, ethical, spiritual obligations
18 responsibilities and laws,
19 Paylean and other growth factories and the
20 long-term effects on the people, the pigs and the
21 environment. Ban it, we have to get back to
22 natural.
23 Check out www.meatrix.ca and www.meatrix.com for
24 more information on the intensified livestock
25 industry.

1 Industry priorities such as OlyWest versus Vita
2 Health.
3 90 percent of the meat is exported at what cost to
4 our sustainable development?
5 100 percent of the waste stays here.
6 More humane handling at the time of death and the
7 type of the death for the hogs.
8 Nuisance odours and their physical effects to all
9 life forms that can smell it.
10 The second shift at Maple Leaf and the CEC
11 concerns.
12 The lack of environmental enforcement and
13 education.
14 Urgent concern over the blood release into the
15 sewer systems and waterways.
16 Bulrushes in ditches, blue green algae ditches,
17 creeks, streams, rivers and lakes overload.
18 Boil water advisories.
19 E. coli warnings.
20 Draw down on our water tables.
21 Nuisance odours and quality of life.
22 Hog industry standards - the honey wagon operators
23 versus socially and environmentally conscious good
24 operators.
25 Ecological services and funding for farmers, for

1 example, putting back the wetlands and forests and
2 studying the water better and closer.
3 The CEC should follow up in three years.
4 The First Nation's rights and involvement, input
5 and notification.
6 Manure management neglect and enforcement.
7 Rural community development and harmony.
8 Small farmer versus factory farmer and
9 sustainability.
10 Organic hog producing teachings, research, role
11 models, education and promotion.
12 Concern about drought and water sustainability.
13 Maple Leaf putting the small farmer out of
14 business.
15 Keep the ban on until there is proper enforcement
16 and regulations all over the province.
17 The NAFTA concerns versus environmental
18 sustainability.
19 Human rights and animal rights.
20 The one percent myth.
21 Stress related illnesses.
22 Real estate depreciation.
23 Hog stigma and reputation.
24 European farming methods being allowed to be here
25 in Manitoba, but yet banned in Europe.

1 And immigration increasing by 10,000 per year in
2 Manitoba.
3 And finally, if at all possible, to have at least
4 one First Nation panelist on the up and coming
5 meetings to be held.

6 I thank you very much for your time
7 and consideration of all of the above-mentioned,
8 all of the points to the very, very touchy subject
9 of mass production of hogs in the Province of
10 Manitoba. Thank you.

11 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
12 Ms. Kennedy Courcelles. I just have one question.
13 Your item number 23 where you talked about the
14 Planning and Development Act, or what you called
15 the old Bill 33, that it's inadequate.

16 MR. CORCELLES: Yes.

17 THE COMMISSIONER: It is my
18 understanding that a new Planning Act was
19 introduced in January of 2006. Are you suggesting
20 that that is inadequate and we should review the
21 new Planning Act?

22 MR. CORCELLES: Yes.

23 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Thank
24 you very much for your presentation.

25 MR. CORCELLES: You're welcome.

1 THE COMMISSIONER: And, Mr. Koroluk,
2 do you want to go now or at 3:30 when you were
3 scheduled?

4 MR. KOROLUK: Now.

5 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay, Mr. Koroluk.

6 MR. KOROLUK: Oh, thank you,
7 Mr. Chair. I don't have to be sworn in?

8 THE COMMISSIONER: Not for this, not
9 for these presentations. Just state your name for
10 the record and then proceed with your
11 presentation.

12 MR. KOROLUK: Okay. I can say
13 anything I want.

14 I am Glen Koroluk. I work part-time
15 for an organization called Beyond Factory Farming.
16 It's a national coalition that promotes
17 sustainable livestock production.

18 Since this is a scoping meeting and
19 we're talking about scoping issues, I wanted to
20 first start off about talking about the process
21 that we seem to be heading towards.

22 And what I brought here today for you
23 is a little guide done by the Organization for
24 Economic and Cooperative Development, OACD. And
25 they have identified ten key principles for

1 successful information, consultation and active
2 participation of citizens in policy-making.

3 And I hope that you can refer to this
4 guide on a continual basis because Canada is a
5 member of the OACD and this is quite a
6 comprehensive set of principles. I will go off
7 and list some of the principles.

8 The first one being commitment, which
9 means leadership and strong commitment to
10 information, consultation and participation in
11 policy-making, and it is needed at all levels from
12 politicians, senior managers and public officials.

13 And I just want to mention that we are
14 grateful that Minister Struthers has called for
15 this review, and we expect his government to
16 respect the process. However, we are very
17 disappointed that the Minister failed to call for
18 full hearings which would enable the public to
19 thoroughly investigate the hog industry. And in
20 this respect, we suggest that if your panel
21 determines that the Mandate and Terms of Reference
22 given to you by the Minister of Conservation are
23 inadequate to carry out your duty, that the
24 Minister be made aware of this finding in this
25 report.

1 Another principle is rights. A
2 citizens' right to access information, provide
3 feedback, be consulted and actively participate in
4 policy-making must be firmly grounded in law and
5 policy. Government obligations to respond to
6 citizens when exercising their rights must also be
7 clearly stated.

8 I want to point out, and you are
9 probably aware of this, that we made a Freedom of
10 Information request last November for basic data
11 and information which the government claims that
12 it has available. This data will give the public
13 and the CEC a clear picture as to how the
14 Department enforces the industry and the nutrients
15 on our land. We have been given notice that it
16 will take 13.5 years to get this information.

17 We also have other information
18 requests before we move into the next stage of
19 this consultation process, such as water quality
20 data for operations that are required to monitor
21 groundwater, records of complaints from the Farm
22 Practices Protection Board, business risk payouts
23 and environmental program payouts to hog
24 operations in Manitoba, and a list of ingredients
25 contained in the feed.

1 And, accordingly, we expect a process
2 to be defined which allows us to seek data and
3 information as well as -- as well as giving us the
4 opportunity to present studies from other
5 jurisdictions. And we do have more information
6 requests, and I will provide those in a written
7 final statement before February 2nd.

8 Another principle is clarity. And
9 objectives for, and limits to, information,
10 consultation and active participation during
11 policy-making should be well-defined from the
12 onset. The respective roles and responsibilities
13 of citizens, in providing input, and governments,
14 in making decisions for which they are
15 accountable, must be clear to all.

16 Now, as this process hasn't been well
17 defined from the onset, we would expect that this
18 scoping exercise will give us the opportunity to
19 help shape the remainder of the review. We
20 require clarification as to how the public can
21 assist the panel in enlisting "experts", what the
22 criteria is for being an "expert", what that
23 process entails and the time period this process
24 will occur in.

25 We acknowledge the benefit of

1 community meetings. However, if we are to
2 discover the "facts" or truth, a process will need
3 to be established so that Participants can be
4 identified and that the powers of the Manitoba
5 Evidence Act are available in the process. We
6 will need to challenge claims, do
7 cross-examination, be able to file motions and
8 call witnesses. These rights are granted to
9 citizens who participate in full hearings.

10 Another principle is time. And we
11 have heard a lot about time over the last few
12 days. Public consultation and active
13 participation should be undertaken as early in the
14 policy process as possible to allow a great range
15 of policy solutions to emerge and to raise the
16 chances of successful implementation. Adequate
17 time must be available for consultation and
18 participation to be effective. Information is
19 needed at all stages of the policy cycle.

20 We have, you know, consistently heard
21 from the industry that this review must happen as
22 fast as possible, because if we take adequate time
23 our entire livestock industry in Manitoba will
24 collapse and farming families will be devastated
25 and people will be going out of business.

1 So we just want to suggest that this
2 process ensures that the required information is
3 made available and that the Panel does not rush
4 its process. And I would even suggest that maybe
5 we should take the amount of time it takes to get
6 a water regulation passed under the Water
7 Protection Act.

8 Another principle that we would like
9 to see is objectivity, and we have heard a bit
10 about that in the last few days. Information
11 provided by government during policy-making should
12 be objective, complete and accessible. All
13 citizens should have equal treatment when
14 exercising their rights of access to information
15 and participation.

16 And on top of conducting an objective
17 review, we expect the panel to engage "experts"
18 who are independent of industry and government.
19 This independence will be required, so as not to
20 have the same people within government and
21 industry supply the background information to test
22 its validity. Decision-making should incorporate
23 science. And we place great emphasis on
24 scientific studies that are peer-reviewed. We
25 suggest that your panel look into our academic

1 community and provide those who can provide
2 assistance in defining your scientific needs.

3 Another principle is resources.
4 Adequate financial, human and technical resources
5 are needed if public information, consultation and
6 active participation in policy making are to be
7 effective. Government officials must have access
8 to proper skills, guidance and training, as well
9 as an organizational comfort for their efforts.

10 I would like to say we are thankful
11 that the Minister has announced \$100,000
12 participant fund. However, for it to be
13 effective, adequate time will be required to make
14 an application and based according to the results
15 of the scoping exercise. Without knowing the full
16 scope of the review and issues to address, it will
17 be difficult for the participants to apply for
18 funds. We suggest that this scoping exercise
19 document be available one week after the
20 February 2nd deadline and that one week be given
21 to participants to apply for the funds upon its
22 release.

23 And we are also suggesting that
24 Section 6 of the Manitoba Regulation 125/91,
25 that's the Participant Fund Regulation, will be

1 used as a guideline in awarding assistance, and
2 those entities who have adequate resources are not
3 eligible for funding.

4 And we are worried, too, that the
5 required resources will not be available within
6 government departments to assist the review
7 process in providing additional information. So
8 that's an issue that you are going to have to deal
9 with.

10 Another principle we would like to see
11 instilled is coordination. You know, initiatives
12 to inform and request feedback from and consult
13 citizens should be co-ordinated across government
14 units to enhance government management to ensure
15 policy adherence, avoid duplication and reduce the
16 risk of consultation fatigue in the citizens and
17 organizations.

18 I will just speak a bit on
19 consultation fatigue. You know, don't be
20 surprised if massive numbers of citizens do not
21 turn out to the upcoming public sessions. Back in
22 2000, we went through a very similar process
23 whereby citizens were granted 15 minutes to make
24 their case at community sessions. The panel, at
25 that time, also met behind closed doors with

1 "experts" and a final report was produced. At
2 that time, there were 5.3 million hogs produced in
3 the province. Since the release of the Finding
4 Common Ground report and the development of the
5 Livestock Stewardship Initiative, hog production
6 has nearly doubled to nine million pigs per year
7 and Lake Winnipeg is now in a state of
8 eutrophication.

9 We have heard about the Planning Act,
10 and that Planning Act needs to be reviewed as it
11 does contain certain elements that deal with
12 manure application and spreading.

13 Another principle that we would like
14 to see instilled is accountability. Governments
15 have an obligation to account for the use they
16 make of citizen's input received through feedback,
17 public consultation and active participation.
18 Measures to ensure that the policy-making process
19 is open, transparent and amenable to external
20 scrutiny and review are crucial to increasing
21 government accountability overall.

22 And we are aware that "experts" will
23 be enlisted in this process. We would like to
24 know who the experts are and we would like to have
25 the opportunity to add our own experts to the

1 list. To make the process transparent, all forms
2 of communication should be sent to the public
3 registry. Closed door meetings should not be
4 encouraged, but if they do happen, minutes must be
5 recorded of their activity. And if letters are
6 addressed to the Panel on points of clarification,
7 common courtesy would dictate that the sender
8 receives a response.

9 I want to move on to my second part of
10 the presentation, and that's the mandate of the
11 review and really, you know, what we're scoping or
12 what we're going to discuss over the next few
13 months. And we have heard this a couple of times,
14 already, too. And the definition of
15 "environmental sustainability", because that is
16 what we've been given the task to look at is the
17 environmental sustainability of the hog industry.
18 And as it's been mentioned in the Environment Act:

19 "Environment means air, land, water,
20 plant and animal life, including
21 humans."

22 The Sustainable Development Act defines:

23 "Sustainability means the capacity of
24 a thing, action, activity or process
25 to be maintained in a manner

1 consistent with the spirit of the
2 principles and guidelines."

3 And that's the principles and guidelines of the
4 Sustainable Development Act.

5 So, in other words, your review, this
6 review, must be broad and include an analysis of
7 socio-economic issues, health issues and community
8 impact issues associated with hog production.

9 And the reason why? Well, if we look
10 at the first principle of the Sustainable
11 Development Act, it states that:

12 "Economic decisions should adequately
13 reflect environmental, human health
14 and social effects and that
15 environmental and health initiatives
16 should adequately take into account
17 economic, human, health and social
18 consequences."

19 Principle number 2 states that:

20 "The economy, the environment, human
21 health and social well-being should be
22 managed for the equal benefit of
23 present and future generations."

24 And principle number 3 states that:

25 "Manitobans should acknowledge

1 responsibility for sustaining the
2 economy, the environment, human health
3 and social well-being with each being
4 accountable for decisions and actions
5 in the spirit of partnership and open
6 cooperation."

7 So your Terms of Reference are quite specific in
8 that you do have to do a broad review.

9 And there are other reasons that you
10 should be doing this review. And it's specific to
11 the Term of Reference number 3, which states:

12 "The CEC investigation should include
13 a review of the contents of the report
14 prepared by Manitoba Conservation
15 entitled "An Examination of the
16 Environmental Sustainability of the
17 Hog Industry in Manitoba."

18 In the introductory session of this report, we
19 were given an economic status of the benefits of
20 the hog industry in Manitoba. The report also
21 indicates that:

22 "A comprehensive assessment known as
23 the Livestock Stewardship Initiative
24 took place, as there was a sense that
25 changes to maintain environmental

1 protection, ensure good husbandry
2 practices and keep rural communities
3 viable and healthy were needed."
4 So by virtue of introducing these issues in the
5 report, and according to your Terms of Reference,
6 we have the duty to include a review of the
7 Livestock Stewardship Initiative, which includes
8 issues such as environmental protection, good
9 husbandry practices, and healthy viable
10 communities.

11 And, furthermore, the 40 or so
12 recommendations stemming from the Livestock
13 Stewardship Panel of 2000, which you can see them
14 in the report, must also be independently
15 revisited. The "Finding Common Ground" report is
16 part of the Livestock Stewardship Initiative.

17 And issues, you know, coming from this
18 report include: Health and safety of workers,
19 animal welfare and husbandry practices,
20 climate change,
21 environmental liability,
22 closure costs,
23 air quality,
24 Farm Practices Protection Guidelines of the Board,
25 health impacts,

1 rural developments,
2 and antibiotics.

3 So your mandate and your Terms of
4 Reference explicitly says that you have to review
5 all of these issues, so you do have a broad scope
6 to work with. And I would find it difficult for
7 you not to take all of this into account because
8 you would have some explaining to do to the
9 Minister of Conservation.

10 Anyway, that's my report, my oral
11 report. I will provide a more detailed written
12 report by February 2nd, if that's allowable.
13 Thank you.

14 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
15 Mr. Koroluk. Certainly any future comment or
16 further comment is welcome. Thank you very much.

17 Now, I have nobody else who has
18 identified that he or she wishes to make a
19 presentation this afternoon. Is there anybody in
20 the room who would like to make a presentation?

21 MR. PETERS: My name is Jack Peters
22 and I have no affiliation. I am just curious to
23 see what is going on, and I made some observation
24 while I was listening. Sorry if they are late.

25 I have raised hogs. Not on a grand,

1 grand scale, but I have raised hogs, and I have
2 also farmed.

3 I guess in the year 2002, at this AFM
4 meeting, I kind of had a wake-up call, I thought.
5 I was walking through the exhibits and a group of
6 people called The Friends of Lake Winnipeg were
7 telling me how these farmers were polluting the
8 land with over-fertilization and causing the algae
9 growth.

10 And having just checked the papers
11 from my -- after my dad passed away, I came across
12 some old soil test papers from our farm that were
13 soil tested throughout the years. The first one
14 was in 1967 and the other was in the year 2002.
15 And for the same target yield, I needed a little
16 more fertilizer to have the same crop, a little
17 more phosphorus. In fact, nitrogen was almost
18 identical. This land has had a continuous crop
19 since 1967, and a crop every year. Never had a
20 crop failure. And it was always fertilized
21 according to our specs. We basically did soil
22 test intermittently and soil testing.

23 But you might wonder, what does that
24 have to do with hog phosphorus and the idea? I
25 believe before we do much of anything, I think

1 agriculture, especially the hog industry, is going
2 to be blamed for a lot of things. A lot of it is
3 hot air that it doesn't really apply to people
4 with our problem. There is a problem with
5 anything. Any time you do something, you take a
6 risk, whether it is raising hogs or raising cattle
7 or putting in a crop of grain, or whatever. There
8 is no such thing as no risk.

9 And I can tell you that on my hog
10 operation, I used to put in probably 6,000 gallons
11 of my organic fertilizers, I call it, for a period
12 and that was pretty well sufficient to grow a
13 crop. I did need to add on my soil a little
14 additional phosphorus.

15 But if we're talking of the pollution
16 of Lake Winnipeg, I think there is another issue
17 there. And one of them is lack of maintenance on
18 our drainage and the streams. The municipal
19 drains, the provincial drains, our water is not
20 flowing in our channels. It is flowing beside, so
21 it is back-flooding our ground. And the water
22 standing on the field absorbs the nutrients and
23 this water ends up in the lake at some point. It
24 is just one of the things.

25 The other thing I would like to say,

1 you know, I am looking at people as a whole. We
2 are living a whole lot longer than we were a while
3 ago. So, you know, I think we can thank the
4 farmers because, starting at the gate, I think the
5 food quality is much better. And we should look
6 and see what they are doing. But I think we need
7 to also acknowledge that there is some very
8 positive things. And it's not all gloom and doom.

9 And, you know, the more regulations we
10 make, and I think we hear about some smaller
11 farmers and things, things aren't getting smaller.
12 And the more regulations you make, the bigger the
13 farms have to be. Am I going to spend a day of
14 paperwork for 8,000 pigs or 800 pigs? If I am
15 going to do a month worth of paperwork, am I going
16 to do it for 80 pigs or 8,000? You know, there is
17 a point where the regulations interfere with what
18 you do. And that's all I have to say.

19 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Peters, before
20 you leave the table, thank you for your comments.
21 Just your comment about the lack of maintenance in
22 the municipal drains, I didn't quite follow that
23 part, partly because I was writing a note. Are
24 you saying that the water flows out of the drains
25 and into the fields and picks up whatever and then

1 back into the drains?

2 MR. PETERS: Yes. We have
3 back-flooding there, instead of flowing into our
4 drains. We don't need to increase the capacity of
5 our drains. We just need them to work.

6 THE COMMISSIONER: All right. Well,
7 thank you very much. Is there anybody else who
8 would like to make some comments this afternoon?

9 MS. CLAYTON: I have just prepared
10 this. I was out of the province and got home
11 early this morning. I checked the dates of this
12 and saw it was today, so I was driving all night
13 from B.C. and here I am back close to home.

14 My name is Liz Clayton. And I bought
15 32-acres of land at Northwest 23-7-AW with my
16 partner, Henry Chatelaine, about a year and a half
17 ago. Now, that is just west of the Boyne River,
18 in the watershed area of the Tiger Hills, a little
19 bit south of Rathwell, south of St. Claude. It's
20 a beautiful, beautiful area. And it is hard not
21 to love it with the rolling hills and all of the
22 trees. And there is lot of bush left standing in
23 that area.

24 So the Boyne is a wetland. It's in
25 the drainage region that flows into the Boyne

1 River, but part of the Stephenfield watershed
2 region.

3 And our intention -- sorry, I'm
4 nervous. Our intention is to design and build an
5 innovative northern-style greenhouse and
6 ultimately supply the Winnipeg marketplace with as
7 much fresh green stuff as we can ship to that
8 urban market nearby, sustainably, using bio-diesel
9 as a way of getting our product to market.

10 With that in mind, we have joined with
11 a group of 12 friends to create a marketing co-op
12 to help us and other small producers get our
13 products to marketplace. We realize a lot of
14 distribution systems are hooked into large scale.
15 And it's the small producers and the family farms,
16 mixed farms, that are sometimes having problems
17 marketing their stuff. So that's what we're doing
18 there. And we absolutely love living in the
19 country.

20 But I was somewhat dismayed to find
21 out, when reading the Treherne Times, January 2nd
22 edition, that at the council meeting on R.M. of
23 South Norfolk, December 12th, there was a public
24 hearing on conditional use at 1:30 in the
25 afternoon, which was attended by a Barry Watson

1 from Bio Pork Enterprises Ltd. and Manny Thomas,
2 Development Officer for South Central Planning
3 District and Gary Pluman, Manitoba Agriculture
4 Technical Review Committee. So those three
5 individuals attended the public hearing. And the
6 council has approved a conditional use permit as
7 required by the R.M. of South Norfolk for
8 Northeast 15-7-8WPM. I don't know if this is
9 affected by the moratorium or not.

10 I did not know that there was going to
11 be a public hearing. I don't know how citizens or
12 neighbours or other stakeholders who live near
13 places are notified about public hearings. Had I
14 known, I would have been there. And I would have
15 been able to hear a little bit more about this
16 proposed Bio Pork enterprise.

17 Because I wasn't, I called the council
18 and asked to see the minutes. And the minutes is
19 basically what was in the paper. The conditional
20 use was approved.

21 But it didn't answer any of my
22 questions as to the nature of the organization,
23 how big it was going to be, the plans for odour
24 control, shelter belts and those sorts of things.
25 So if this, indeed, is a panel for suggestions, I

1 suggest that one of the issues you should look at
2 is proper notification in advance of stakeholders
3 of any such proposed projects in their area so
4 that we can make plans to attend the public
5 hearings and find out what will immediately impact
6 us, particularly as we live downstream. We have a
7 wetland flowing right through the middle of our
8 property on the Boyne which, in the springtime, is
9 a real flood zone. So we are down water. And we
10 are also directly downwind with the prevailing
11 winds. And this is an adjacent section to us.

12 So we're a little bit upset about
13 that. And why is that? I don't know. I like my
14 neighbour. I have already met him. And John
15 seems like a really reasonable guy. He is in his
16 fifties. He has farmed beef, about 90 head, in
17 the area for 30 years. And what I'm thinking is
18 he seems a little tired. He is in his
19 mid-fifties. He had an ankle injury. He has to
20 retire out of his business one day. And he is
21 probably looking at what he has invested as a beef
22 farmer, and gone through BSE, and the aftermath of
23 that. He is probably wondering what kind of
24 legacy, what kind of cash he can get at the end of
25 all of this, being probably in debt. So perhaps

1 he is looking at the hog thing as being his big
2 bailout at this point, a way of making some money
3 before he ends his farming days.

4 Now, I can see the government having
5 all kinds of initiatives for farmers. As I pick
6 up our weekly paper, there are meetings for green
7 zones, for alternative farming methods. I hear of
8 inter-farming, where you graze sheep in with your
9 cows, which is less of a problem on the land. But
10 somehow he has made this decision to go with the
11 pork. And that's making it very uncomfortable
12 because he knows now that we know. We know what
13 he is doing. We want to be friends and
14 neighbours, but it's causing a lot of discomfort
15 and distress at this point.

16 And I believe that's the same kind of
17 thing that was mentioned earlier, that it is
18 really a big unmeasurable impact of this industry
19 on all of rural Manitoba. Wherever there are
20 barns, there are neighbours, there are cities and
21 towns nearby. So that's one of the things that I
22 think is very difficult to measure.

23 On the other hand, we have the hog
24 industry, which finds that it is easy to measure
25 the cost impacts of this business out of province.

1 There are full-time paid employees and lobbyists.
2 And they have a very good way of measuring this
3 impact positively on the economy.

4 I am concerned with some of the
5 intangibles. How do you measure what does not
6 happen, like people not moving to a community or
7 not starting their own small sustainable farm
8 operations because they cannot live beside,
9 downwind or downstream from an intensive livestock
10 operation? Like, there are also hidden costs of
11 de-population eroding our tax bases. And this
12 will continue if this is what rural Manitoba life
13 looks like and smells like and tastes like.

14 What about the cost of those concerned
15 with this, like my time and money and gas to get
16 here today to, you know, just to make a few notes
17 to you people on this panel?

18 So despite my attempts to find land
19 away from hog barns in the first place, I find
20 that this is probably going to be set up outside
21 my door.

22 And so with that in mind, I think that
23 the panel should be very concerned with the issue
24 of water testing. I see on this form here, that
25 is the standard water testing form for Manitoba,

1 that the agriculture water analysis part where you
2 measure manure storage facility monitoring wells
3 in one year, year one, and other subsequent years,
4 you send a one or two litre pop bottle for
5 analysis. I am wondering about the security on
6 that. I have no idea. Who makes sure that a pop
7 bottle full of water from a monitoring well comes
8 from that well that says it is? I don't see that
9 there is a security connection there. I might be
10 mistaken, but I think that this is something worth
11 looking at.

12 How do you measure the amount of
13 manure in a run-off situation? I don't understand
14 why the application is allowed during the winter
15 months still. And I understand it is. And I
16 smell it is and I see that it's happening. How
17 can liquid manure, applied on top of the snow on
18 frozen ground, not run off into our ditches and
19 then wetlands and then streams and then to our
20 Stephenfield water supply, which supplies drinking
21 water for 10,000 people?

22 How do you measure the intangible
23 quality of the air? This is a difficult one. In
24 Winnipeg last summer there was a day where I
25 stepped out on my front step. And I still had a

1 city residence. And I thought: What dog did what
2 under my front step? I looked under, nothing. I
3 walked around. The smell did not dissipate. I
4 listened to the CBC that afternoon, what was the
5 stink in the air? We promise we will get the
6 answers for you tomorrow, they said. So I
7 listened. What can smell so absolutely rank? And
8 the answer was: We don't know the answer. We
9 don't know what had happened that day and why our
10 air smelled so badly. But, like air, it passed
11 and people forget.

12 The same thing happened in New York
13 City. There was a huge stink. And, you know, it
14 smelled like S-H-I-T, actually, according to some
15 of the reports. Despite all of the combined
16 resources of all of the people in that area, they
17 could not figure out where the smell came from. I
18 think our methods of measuring air quality are
19 lacking far behind some of our other measurement
20 tools which we use.

21 And further to odour, I understand
22 Notre Dame is now surrounded in every area by
23 intensive livestock operations. And that after
24 years of back and forth, a farmer was finally
25 ordered to cover the tank, a huge storage tank.

1 It was deemed a noxious odour, finally. It stinks
2 and it's been covered. But it took him four
3 months to put straw on top of that. How do the
4 rights of two farmers outweigh the health and
5 comfort of an entire community? Like, how does
6 that balance out? So that's been rectified for
7 now in Notre Dame.

8 But I heard from a friend that one of
9 the doctors in Notre Dame says that she will leave
10 if there is one more barn put in that area. We
11 have a problem attracting physicians to local
12 areas. I don't think Notre Dame would like to
13 lose a doctor on this for the sake of two farmers.

14 I think it's a question sometimes of
15 democracy. And I don't deny people the right to
16 earn a living in your own backyard. What you do
17 in your own backyard, if it doesn't leak or leach
18 in my backyard, if it's safe and it's proven safe,
19 I am totally all right with that. And I just wish
20 that everyone would -- well, I hope the farmers
21 here are taking notes and have some ideas based on
22 what they have heard today.

23 So I am living in the country now and
24 I will stick it out and see how it goes. But
25 thank you very much for taking the time to give me

1 this time.

2 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
3 Ms. Clayton.

4 We have nobody else scheduled to speak
5 this afternoon. We will take a short break. We
6 have some refreshments over on the counter over
7 here. I invite you to partake. And if anybody
8 else would like to make a presentation this
9 afternoon, make a few comments, please let Cathy,
10 at the back of the room, know or speak to me
11 during the break. We will come back in about 15
12 minutes. Thank you.

13 (PROCEEDING RECESSED AT 3:00 AND RESUMED AT 3:20)

14 THE COMMISSIONER: Could I have
15 everyone's attention? You don't need to sit down.
16 We haven't had anyone else express a wish to speak
17 this afternoon. And so we will sort of informally
18 adjourn, and by that I mean that the panel will
19 stay here until 5:00. If anybody else shows up
20 and wants to make a presentation, we will
21 reconvene at that time. But until that happens,
22 we're adjourned. So continue to converse and
23 visit and enjoy the refreshments.

24 (Proceedings recessed at 3:22
25 and reconvened at 7:00)

1

2 THE COMMISSIONER: Good evening. We
3 will come to order now. We only have two people
4 registered to make presentations this evening.
5 They are both with us now, so we may as well
6 proceed. The first is Gerald Enns. Come up to
7 this table here.

8 MR. ENNS: Did you get copies?

9 THE COMMISSIONER: We have one copy,
10 yes.

11 MR. ENNS: Sorry about that.

12 THE COMMISSIONER: That's okay. They
13 can look over my shoulder and then we can make
14 copies in the office.

15 MR. ENNS: My name is Gerald Enns.
16 I'm affiliated with the Green Party of Manitoba.
17 I am currently the treasurer of the party and
18 would like to speak on behalf of the membership
19 that we have.

20 The expansion of the hog industry
21 raises a lot of concerns for all Manitobans. The
22 huge economic force of the industry must be
23 considered along with social and environmental
24 concerns. Economists and environmentalists don't
25 always understand each other, but there is a lot

1 of cross-over. Economists have always considered
2 externalities, or other factors that affect the
3 rate of return on investments; and
4 environmentalists, on the other hand, see the
5 human economy as a subset of the earth's economy.

6 The point of this, the point I'm
7 trying to make, is economic concerns and
8 environmental concerns are tightly linked,
9 especially in the case of the hog industry. The
10 socio-economic impacts of the hog industry are
11 imminent. And to focus solely on the
12 environmental ones would belittle the main issues.
13 There is huge overlap. And I would like to
14 present several of them, starting with the
15 consideration of the most important and then
16 proceeding on to issues that are of decreasing
17 importance.

18 I would like to just give a brief
19 interlude before I make recommendations. So at
20 any given time in Manitoba, there are
21 approximately 380,000 sows. I believe that sow
22 stalls are cruel. The European Union will phase
23 them out by 2013. And we recommend that sow
24 stalls in Manitoba be phased out by 2017. We have
25 many more sows and farmers who are currently using

1 sow stalls.

2 Pigs need to exercise mobility,
3 rummage and socialize, like any other animal.
4 Innovative farmers in Manitoba, and in other
5 countries, are successfully using practical
6 alternatives to sow stalls. They have proven
7 benefits in manure handling, dry as opposed to
8 wet, and improved workplace health and safety.

9 We recommend the Clean Environment
10 Commission pursue a full review of the feasibility
11 of group housing systems for the hog industry as
12 it pertains to economics, labour and the
13 environment. This will impact all further
14 considerations.

15 Secondly, I would like to talk about
16 the economic benefits for rural communities are an
17 illusion. The viability and strength of rural
18 communities cannot be addressed through the hog
19 industry alone, but through a comprehensive plan
20 for agriculture. A comprehensive plan does not
21 exist. And because of the rapid growth of the hog
22 industry in the past 20 years, its impact on rural
23 Manitoba must be assessed. Manitoba leads Canada
24 in the hog industry due to the growth of pig
25 production from one million in 1980 to 8.6 million

1 in 2006. This has been accompanied with a trend
2 to grow feed crops instead of grain and oil seeds.
3 The hog industry accounts for \$1 billion in
4 exports, which is honestly no small amount, and a
5 huge consideration in planning the livelihoods of
6 many people in Manitoba.

7 To the credit of farmers, a seven fold
8 increase in efficiency, due to modern farming
9 practices, has increased yields. We see more pigs
10 per farm. Farm consolidation is not a new trend
11 and has been happening since the 1940s. But
12 recent statistics show that the rate at which
13 farms are disappearing is increasing. And the
14 fastest rate being a 13 percent decrease from 1996
15 to 2001, and that was just over 21,000 farms in
16 Manitoba.

17 And the statistics I have cited here
18 are the most easily interpreted statistics that
19 are available on government websites to anybody
20 with access to the internet. So these are not
21 statistics from farm consulting groups. These are
22 the statistics that are the most widely used.

23 The benefits to farmers in the hog
24 industry need to be examined. Hog prices have
25 declined slowly and steadily from 2001. From 2005

1 to 2006 alone, the cost of feed has increased from
2 \$48 to \$63 per pig. The pork consumption in
3 Canada remains steady and the growth in industry
4 has been due to exports. Hog farmers receive one
5 of the lowest percent in retail prices among
6 livestock producers.

7 The price of food in Canada has not
8 increased with an increase in wages. Consumers
9 spend less of their disposable income, 10 percent,
10 on food today. Farm income, in general, has
11 decreased slightly from 1971 to 2006. In that
12 same time, there has been a seven fold increase in
13 farm expenses. Outstanding farm debt has
14 increased from 3.1 billion in 1998 to 5.5 billion
15 in 2005.

16 And here's where I make an
17 interpretive twist. If the trend of increasing
18 debt that has accompanied so-called economic
19 growth at a rate of 175 percent in the seven
20 years, between 1998 and 2005, the next seven years
21 of economic growth will result in an outstanding
22 farm debt of \$7.3 billion.

23 Farmers have the potential to be the
24 best stewards of the land. And, in fact, in much
25 of Manitoba, they are the stewards of the land.

1 And the fewer people in rural Manitoba, the more
2 difficult it is to have strong communities. Any
3 industry that takes people away from the land
4 cannot be seen as a benefit to rural communities.
5 Family farms employ more people and retain profits
6 in the community.

7 I recommend the Clean Environment
8 Commission review the effect the abolition of
9 single desk selling and increased vertical
10 integration of corporations into the hog industry
11 has had on the ability of farmers and communities
12 to realize their profits due to increased
13 productivity.

14 Thirdly, I would like to discuss the
15 impact of the hog industry on water consumption.
16 Hog barns use approximately 100 litres of water
17 per day per sow. Processing facilities use vast
18 amounts of water. And I don't have any statistics
19 on that. Old, unregulated liquid manure storage
20 tanks are immediate threats to local water
21 resources. You've heard of the spills in
22 MacGregor in 2002, four million litres of pig
23 manure slurry. And others have been cited as
24 well, to which I don't have any confirmation of
25 sources, so I just won't make any more mention of

1 those.

2 Large lagoons of hog manure slurry are
3 a hazard to local wells and surface water. Manure
4 spreading and increasing nutrient run-off to
5 surface water is an increasing trend, as has been
6 noted by the regulations that have been breached
7 that already resulted in minimal penalties.

8 I recommend the Clean Environment
9 Commission investigate the ability of governments
10 to allocate water licences based on site specific
11 soil and hydrologic data. I recommend that the
12 Clean Environment Commission investigate the
13 impact and feasibility of dry manure management
14 systems and potential advantages to protecting
15 water from contamination.

16 In addition to the recommendations, I
17 have listed a few just general questions.

18 Is there sufficient groundwater and soil data to
19 make informed decisions?

20 Does the government have sufficient resources to
21 investigate old storage tanks before 1998?

22 Do current regulations and enforcement
23 capabilities effectively protect Manitoba's
24 drinking water?

25 My fourth consideration is labour in

1 the barn and in the slaughterhouse. Manitoba's
2 hog production has outpaced the growth of
3 slaughter and processing facilities. One of the
4 biggest challenges to the slaughter and production
5 industries is the availability of a large labour
6 pool. A demand for large labour pool makes cities
7 the optimum site for slaughter and processing
8 facilities. The full cost to the public in
9 subsidies, tax breaks and infrastructure
10 accommodations for large developments make the hog
11 industry the exception. Hog barn workers are at
12 risk. Hog barn workers specifically are at risk
13 for developing lung and breathing disorders.

14 I recommend the Clean Environment
15 Commission consider the social impact, high
16 infrastructure needs, and demand for unskilled
17 labour that slaughtering and processing facilities
18 have on their environments.

19 I recommend the Clean Environment
20 Commission review the medical literature on barn
21 workers' risk of developing asthma and bronchial
22 infections.

23 The fifth consideration -- how am I
24 doing by time, by the way?

25 THE COMMISSIONER: You've got five

1 minutes.

2 MR. ENNS: Okay. I will just make it
3 as quick as I can.

4 5: Manitoba's hog industry's impact
5 on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The
6 greenhouse gas emissions from the hog industry
7 must be assessed within the context of Canada's
8 commitments to meeting target sets at the Kyoto
9 Conference. Greenhouse gas emissions result from
10 hog production mostly from transportation and, to
11 some extent, manure. As a result of Manitoba's
12 large export market, the needs of -- the impact
13 from greenhouse emissions from truck driving needs
14 to be assessed.

15 At any given time, there are
16 approximately three times as many hogs as there
17 are people in Manitoba in 2006. Hogs produce
18 about four times as much waste as humans. And as
19 a result, four times as much methane, which is
20 approximately 20 times more effective in trapping
21 heat than CO₂.

22 We recommend the Clean Environment
23 Commission investigate greenhouse gas emissions
24 that result from the transportation of hogs, feed,
25 manure and other significant activities.

1 We recommend the Clean Environment
2 Commission investigate greenhouse gas emissions
3 that result from manure.

4 And we recommend that the Clean
5 Environment Commission investigate the impact and
6 feasibility of anaerobic manure digestion and the
7 potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and
8 generate energy.

9 The sixth consideration is the issue
10 of manure application. Night soil, and manure
11 application is a viable and old practice. Manure
12 spreading becomes a problem when too much is
13 applied on not enough land or sensitive soil.
14 Manitoba has 11 million-acres of cropland, of
15 which combined livestock manure requires
16 approximately 10 percent. Hog manure could
17 fertilize an estimated 6 percent of the land.

18 So the issue is there is no shortage
19 of land, but the question is whether Manitoba's
20 nutrient management system can be run effectively.
21 Nutrient management systems must account for
22 phosphorus run-off, nitrogen uptake by crops and
23 the site specific soil analysis.

24 Sandy soils may not be suitable for
25 manure application. The southeast and southwest

1 regions of Manitoba show the highest concentration
2 of hog manure piles. Overapplication of manure
3 threaten groundwater and nearby surface water.

4 We recommend the Clean Environment
5 Commission investigate the government's capacity
6 to obtain site specific data as it pertains to the
7 application of manure, as well as the ability of
8 the government to monitor and enforce regulations
9 on manure spreading.

10 We recommend the Clean Environment
11 Commission investigate the effectiveness of dry
12 manure systems as viable alternatives.

13 I would like to quickly bring up one
14 last consideration, and that is that hog farming
15 requires a large amount of antibiotics. Hogs
16 require between 100 to 1,000 times the dosage of
17 antibiotics during raising than humans. And that
18 increased use of antibiotics may result in
19 increased amounts of drug-resistant bacteria.

20 We recommend that the Clean
21 Environment Commission take a precautionary
22 approach in assessing the risks posed to human
23 contact of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in food,
24 water and air.

25 In conclusion, any real investigation

1 into the expansion of the hog, further expansion
2 of the hog industry, raises a lot of questions
3 that have been unanswered for several years. And
4 as of most recently, Ruth Pryzner from Rivers,
5 Manitoba, who really had a lot of questions about
6 the expansion of the hog industry, she had so many
7 questions she had the fax at Manitoba Conservation
8 going for two days. And Manitoba's Conservation
9 response to that was: Well, it will take us 13.5
10 years to answer your questions. In light of the
11 13.5 years it will take to respond to questions,
12 we ask that the moratorium on hog expansion should
13 be kept in place for another 13.5 years. That's
14 all. Thank you.

15 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very
16 much, Mr. Enns.

17 Mr. Martin Unrau.

18 MR. UNRAU: Good evening. My name is
19 Martin Unrau. I'm the president of the Manitoba
20 Cattle Producers Association. I would like to
21 thank the members of the Clean Environment
22 Commission for the opportunity to provide you with
23 some input into this process.

24 The Manitoba Cattle Producers
25 Association represents 10,000-plus producers

1 involved in various aspects of the beef cattle
2 industry, including the cow/calf, backgrounding
3 and finishing sectors. The cattle industry is
4 worth in excess of \$500 million annually to the
5 province's economy.

6 The Manitoba cattle producers, like
7 other livestock producers, know that the way they
8 treat their soil and water resources will affect
9 their operations. Cattle require access to high
10 quality water supplies, so producers are keenly
11 interested in protecting this resource. Producers
12 also want to maintain or improve the quality of
13 their soil on their farms, as it is an integral
14 part to the long-term sustainability of their
15 operations.

16 Cattle producers live on the very same
17 landscape in which we raise our cattle. We want
18 to ensure that our families have safe access to
19 clean water supplies and a healthy environment.
20 We recognize that the way we run our operations
21 also affect our neighbours, so we take steps to
22 minimize the potential impacts, such as dust or
23 odour.

24 Each and every person in this room
25 enjoys access to high quality, inexpensive food

1 thanks in part to the work of Manitoba farms. It
2 must be noted that the process of raising
3 livestock or producing crops is heavily regulated
4 in Manitoba. It is also important to note that
5 the costs of adhering to these environmental
6 regulations are borne almost exclusively by farm
7 families, and not by consumers. This is a
8 significant social responsibility being borne by
9 the farming community.

10 For example, there are numerous
11 environmental acts and regulations that govern the
12 way livestock producers run their operations.
13 These rules relate to manure management, nutrient
14 application levels, mortality management, soil and
15 water monitoring, setbacks from water bodies, and
16 the siting of livestock operations, just to name a
17 few.

18 In addition to providing day-to-day
19 care for their cattle or livestock, producers
20 spend considerable time interpreting the
21 regulations and applying them to their farms. It
22 is a complex task, but producers do it because
23 they recognize the importance of protecting the
24 environment for future generations.

25 And I would just like to add that

1 farming communities, the farming communities,
2 while it's a business community, it is also a
3 lifestyle. When you buy a business in town or buy
4 a Pizza Hut or a restaurant, you look at the
5 resale value down the road. Whereas farming,
6 cattlemen farmers, hog operators, many of them
7 want to pass this down to their sons or grandsons,
8 so it's a multi-generational operation.

9 It's probably fair to say that the
10 vast majority of Manitobans do not live their
11 lives under such a high degree of public scrutiny
12 or regulation. For example, does the average
13 citizen know the proper agronomic rate at which to
14 apply lawn fertilizers or to apply herbicides to
15 weeds on their property? Farmers must know this.
16 Yet, all too often, fingers are pointed at the
17 farm community when environmental concerns arise.
18 Being visible on the landscape makes the industry
19 a target.

20 All Manitobans have a shared
21 responsibility to protect the environment. These
22 range from the production practices used by
23 manufacturers and processors, to the ways in which
24 Manitobans use water resources recreationally, and
25 the steps municipal and large city governments

1 take to ensure they are not discharging raw sewage
2 into our waterways. I simply want to ask this
3 question: How thoroughly are these activities
4 scrutinized?

5 The cattle producers employ many
6 beneficial management practices to protect and to
7 enhance the environment. For example, over the
8 years, the Manitoba Cattle Producers, and
9 individual producers, have worked with groups such
10 as Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, the
11 Riparian Health Council, the Farm Stewardship
12 Association, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation
13 Administration, and others, on a wide variety of
14 projects to protect our environment.

15 Manitoba's cattle industry also
16 recognizes the importance of research when it
17 comes to advancing the industry and protecting the
18 environment. We are currently involved in
19 research projects in both the University of
20 Manitoba and the Brandon Research Centre related
21 to cattle, cropping and forage production.

22 As an example, we are currently
23 involved in a three-year research project called
24 Solid Cattle Manure as a Nutrient Source in Annual
25 and Forage Cropping Systems. Currently there is

1 very little scientific data about solid beef
2 manure in Manitoba. But regulations are being
3 developed that affect how producers manage manure.

4 This valuable research project is
5 examining a number of topics, including
6 characterizing the manure management practices
7 used on Manitoba cattle operations; examining the
8 agronomic and environmental availability of
9 nutrients in solid cattle manure as influenced by
10 factors such as crop type, soil type, soil
11 fertility and application rate; and, ensuring
12 optimum utilization of solid manure as a nutrient
13 source for crop production, while at the same time
14 preserving soil and water quality.

15 We would strongly encourage the
16 Commission members to speak to local researchers,
17 such as Dr. Don Flaten, at the University of
18 Manitoba, and others, about important projects
19 such as these. Their work will greatly expand the
20 base of knowledge about all livestock production
21 and its effects on the local environment.

22 The MCPA recognizes that the
23 Provincial Government has assigned the Clean
24 Environment Commission is a very serious task. We
25 would like to make some recommendations to you as

1 you move on to the next stage of your duties.

2 The Manitoba Cattle Producers
3 Association strongly believes that science, and
4 not emotion, must form the basis of your work.
5 Over the course of these hearings, the Commission
6 will receive many suggestions and undoubtedly hear
7 a lot of strong opinions about how Manitoba's
8 livestock industry should be managed. We ask that
9 sound science be the basis for assessing the
10 merits of the information presented to you at
11 these hearings. As well, the information that you
12 seek out from other jurisdictions and sources must
13 also be driven by science, with emotion taken out
14 of the equation. Try to find research that will
15 be relevant to this unique Manitoba landscape.

16 In a similar vein, the Manitoba Cattle
17 Producers Association asks that the Commission
18 adhere to the Terms of Reference that have been
19 provided to it by the government, that is,
20 assessing the environmental aspects of the
21 industry being reviewed. This should not be
22 allowed to turn into a debate about the philosophy
23 of livestock or hog production in Manitoba.

24 We ask that the Commission conduct its
25 work thoroughly, using a fair and balanced

1 approach to the issues presented to it. The MCPA
2 also recognizes that this will be a time-consuming
3 process.

4 However, we would like to caution that
5 the longer this review process takes, the greater
6 the uncertainty this will create for Manitoba's
7 farmers and the agri-business communities. The
8 pause on the hog industry is raising many
9 questions about Manitoba's business climate, both
10 for existing stakeholders and for potential
11 investors. The ripple effects will be felt far
12 beyond the hog industry, as people question
13 whether Manitoba is the right place to do
14 business. It is the government's responsibility
15 to make policy decisions based on sound science,
16 not as a reaction to public perceptions about
17 certain industries.

18 Farming is an extremely challenging
19 and unpredictable industry, as evidenced by the
20 experiences of the beef industry as we deal with
21 the ongoing effects of the BSE crisis. The MCPA
22 would strongly encourage the Commission to move
23 through this process within as reasonable a
24 timeframe as possible, while still addressing the
25 tasks at hand.

1 Manitoba's cattle industry remains
2 committed to protecting the environment for future
3 generations. We ask only that all Manitobans do
4 the same.

5 Once again, I would like to thank you
6 for the opportunity to provide the Clean
7 Environment Commission with some input into this
8 scoping process. Thank you.

9 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very
10 much, Mr. Unrau.

11 Is there anyone else who wishes to
12 make any comments here this evening? Going once,
13 twice. Well, I guess that brings today's meetings
14 to a close. I want to thank those of who you came
15 out this evening, and others of you that came out
16 this afternoon as well, for a very interesting
17 day.

18 We will go from here. This is the
19 last of our scoping meetings. We will assess what
20 we've heard over the three days of our meetings.
21 And then we will try to digest it in a bit of a
22 discussion paper, but particularly to identify
23 specifically some broad areas in which we will be
24 conducting further meetings through March and
25 April.

1 So if anybody else has anything to add
2 right now, it's your last chance. Thank you very
3 much. We're adjourned.

4 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 7:35)

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CERTIFICATE

LISA REID, duly appointed Official Examiner in the Province of Manitoba, do hereby certify the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript of my Stenotype notes as taken by me at the time and place hereinbefore stated.

Lisa Reid

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