



August 11, 2026

The Honourable Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta
Government of Alberta

RE: Loss of Agricultural Land

Dear Premier Smith,

On behalf of Alberta farmers and ranchers, we are writing to express our concern regarding the loss of agricultural land to competing land uses and foreign ownership. This is a crucial conversation as the province continues to pursue policies aimed at attracting outside investment and reducing barriers to capital.

Alberta farmers and ranchers strongly support investment that creates jobs, expands processing capacity, strengthens supply chains and contributes to Alberta's economy. However, agricultural land is fundamentally different from other investment opportunities. It is a finite and irreplaceable resource that underpins food production, rural communities, environmental stewardship and Alberta's long-term economic resilience.

For producers, farmland is not simply an asset, it is the foundation of their business. When agricultural land becomes an investment vehicle rather than a productive agricultural resource, it can reduce opportunities for active producers to expand or transition their operations, contribute to increased land values, and make it more difficult for the next generation of Alberta farmers and ranchers to enter the industry.

Other jurisdictions have recognized the strategic importance of protecting farmland. Saskatchewan maintains one of the strongest farm ownership regimes in Canada. The province has consistently maintained that these measures protect agricultural land while continuing to encourage investment in other sectors of the economy. Ontario has also recently introduced legislation to protect agricultural land.

ABP believes Alberta has an opportunity to proactively safeguard its agricultural land base before investment pressures become more significant. We therefore urge the Government of Alberta to:

- Maintain strong protections governing conversion of agricultural land;
- Review Alberta's current legislative framework to ensure it continues to meet the long-term needs of Alberta producers;
- Consider strengthening Alberta's approach by adopting elements of Saskatchewan's model, including clearer limitations, enhanced oversight, and greater transparency around exemptions; and
- Recognize agricultural land as a strategic provincial asset that warrants a different policy approach than other forms of commercial investment.

Alberta's producers invest in their land for generations. They steward native grasslands, conserve wildlife habitat, protect watersheds and produce safe, high-quality food while supporting rural economies across the province. Ensuring agricultural land remains accessible to those actively producing food is essential to maintaining these benefits for future generations.

We appreciate your government's ongoing support for Alberta agriculture and welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Doug Roxburgh
Alberta Beef Producers, Chair



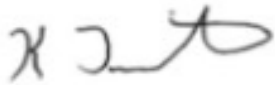
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Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association, Chair



David Hyink
Alberta Chicken Producers, Chair



Scott Jespersen
Alberta Grains, Chair



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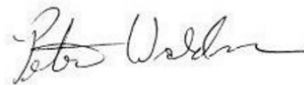
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Alberta Pulse Growers, Chair



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Alberta Sugar Beet Growers, President



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Alberta Turkey Producers, Chair



Peter Waldner
Egg Farmers of Alberta, Chair

Cc:

Tara Sawyer, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Jason Hale, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Joseph Schow, Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration
RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Affordability and Utilities