Agriculture is Everyone's Business

November 2020

To whom it may concern

RE: Support for BD Zone Initiative

On behalf of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), I am writing to express our support for the BD Zone Initiative.

APAS is the unified voice of Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers, representing over 16,000 farm operations. Our work, on behalf of our members, focusses on priority issues which impact the work and livelihood of the Saskatchewan agricultural community.

Canadian biomass represents tremendous and largely untapped economic potential through the production of alternative fuels, renewable chemicals, bio-based products, and sustainable aviation fuels. Accelerating investment into these sectors is an imperative to create clean growth jobs for the post COVID-19 economic recovery, to support deployment of bio-based policies such as the Clean Fuel Standard (CFS), and to accelerate Canada's low carbon future.

This potential is especially true for agricultural feedstock residues available in the province of Saskatchewan.

Our producers are always looking for market opportunities and for new technologies to add value to our products. Biomass has great potential to enhance our financial sustainability. Utilizing byproducts like wheat and flax straw will also enhance the value of those crops and help to ensure that crop rotation plans reflect best agronomic practices. The development of biomass industries will also enhance the potential development of agro-forestry as an alternative land use for Saskatchewan producers.

We support standardization and certification levers which will help businesses increase their innovation capacity and decrease the risk of bringing their innovations to market. We also support this opportunity to attract new innovative bio-marketplaces to rural Saskatchewan. In addition to introducing more sustainable products like biofuels, bio-products, bio-chemicals into the Canadian marketplace, The BD Zone Initiative can provide increased market diversification opportunities for our farmers and ranchers.

We therefore fully support the BD Zone Initiative and strongly suggest that our government support designation of as many BD Zones as possible in order to de-risk and promote investment in made-in-Canada green technologies.

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President

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