



January 9, 2025

The Honourable Senators of Canada
The Senate of Canada
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4

RE: Parkland County ASB concerns regarding Bill C-293

Dear Honourable Senators,

The Agricultural Service Board of Parkland County wishes to express its concerns and opposition to Bill C-293, an Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness. While we broadly support the objective of the bill, we have concerns regarding the potential negative impact on the agricultural industry.

About 40% of Alberta's farm cash receipts are from livestock production contributing over \$10 Billion in Alberta in 2023. This represents the livelihood of a significant number of farm families, a significant contribution to local food supply and an important economic contributor to our rural and remote communities. In Alberta, Agriculture Service Boards are empowered to protect the ability of farmers to farm through advocacy, policy and regulation enforcement which includes our *Animal Health Act*.

Clause 2, Section L (ii) of the Bill C-293 addresses the regulation of commercial activities, specifically mentioning industrial animal agriculture. Subsections (iii) and (iv) raise particular concerns by promoting the production of alternative proteins to reduce pandemic risks and suggesting the phase-out of commercial activities involving high-risk species. We believe that the language used in these provisions is vague and lacks the clarity necessary for a full understanding of its implications.

Our concerns center around the potential for overreach by the federal government into areas traditionally managed by provincial and municipal authorities. The agricultural sector, particularly in Alberta, is highly regulated, with world-class animal disease surveillance programs, food safety protocols, and biosecurity measures already in place. We believe that these existing frameworks should be recognized and considered within the scope of the bill, rather than introducing additional and potentially duplicative federal regulations.



In light of these concerns, we respectfully ask that the Senate revisit Bill C-293 to ensure that it is clear, concise, and respectful of the jurisdictional responsibilities of provincial and municipal authorities. We also request that the bill be revised to ensure fairness and equity for all industries, particularly agriculture, which plays a crucial role in both our provincial and national economies.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that the Senate will give careful consideration to our concerns and work toward an outcome that strengthens pandemic preparedness without unintended negative impacts on the agricultural sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Ben Jespersen", written over a faint, larger signature.

Ben Jespersen
Parkland County Agricultural Service Board
Vice Chair

Cc: The Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of the Province of Alberta
The Honourable R. J. Sigurdson, Alberta Minister of Agricultural and Irrigation
The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
The Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health Canada
Mr. Dane Lloyd, MP Sturgeon River-Parkland
Mr. Gerald Soroka, MP Yellowhead
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee