

8 April, 2014

The Honourable Mary Polak  
Minister of Environment  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Via email: [EVN.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EVN.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Polak:

**Changes to Bill 18**

Thank you for considering the unique needs of BC food producers in developing the new Water Sustainability Act. Overall we support the direction taken and look forward to working with your Ministry in developing the appropriate regulations to support the new Act.

The BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) recommends amending the following definitions in the proposed legislation to ensure it fits current production practices.

**Section 1 – Qualifying Agriculture Use**

Livestock water use is not mentioned as a qualifying agriculture use. This definition should be expanded to specifically address the water requirements of agriculture livestock from an animal welfare perspective.

**Section 2 – Water Use Purposes "Irrigation purpose"**

The proposed definition of "Irrigation purpose" does not reflect the complex production systems used today. The definition should be amended to read, "Means the use of water to nourish crops on cultivated lands, natural lands, greenhouses and nurseries".

Thank you for recognizing agriculture's contribution to the economy, role as an environmental steward and critical dependency on clean affordable water supply.

Respectfully submitted

Sincerely,

Lorne Hunter  
Chair, BC Agriculture Council Water Committee

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