



February 7, 2017

The Honourable Scott Moe
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water Security Agency
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Minister Moe:

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), I would like to provide you with an addendum to SARM's previous comments on Bill 44. As you are aware, SARM is supportive of many of the changes proposed in Bill 44 and believes that it is a step in the right direction for managing illegal drainage in Saskatchewan.

However, SARM does have some concerns regarding the repeal of the Water Appeal Board. Removing the Water Appeal Board will result in increased costs and delays as appeals will now have to go through the court system. The Water Appeal Board provided a separate mechanism for appealing drainage decisions made by the Water Security Agency. Having this process outside of the courts provided a more affordable and efficient process for appeals. Moving this process into the court system will not have a desirable outcome for complainants.

To mitigate these concerns, the SARM Board of Directors would like to see an amendment made to Bill 44 that would see the Water Appeal Board continue to be an available mechanism. Guidelines would need to be developed that include how quickly appeals need to be heard and when decisions need to be given by. SARM believes that an important feature of the water management strategy should include a well-functioning Water Appeal Board that allows complainants the opportunity to appeal a WSA decision.

SARM is aware of other organizations having concerns with Bill 44 and believes that this amendment would assist in alleviating some concerns. The progress made towards implementing a water management strategy should not be lost. For SARM, it is important that illegal drainage is carefully resolved as poor water management leads to damages to agriculture land and municipal infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
200 – 2221 Cornwall Street Regina, SK | S4P 2L1 | (306) 757-3577 | sarm.ca

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Orb". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Ray" and the last name "ORB" clearly legible.

Ray Orb
President