



April 12, 2019

Carbon Pollution Pricing
Department of Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G5
fin.tarification-pollutionpricing.fin@canada.ca

Re: Proposed Refinements to the Federal Carbon Pollution Pricing System

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), I am writing in response to the Department of Finance Canada's call for comments on the proposed refinements to the federal carbon pollution pricing system. SARM is the independent association that represents all 296 rural municipal governments in Saskatchewan. We have a mandate in municipal and agricultural issues.

Since its introduction into the public discourse, SARM has been concerned about the impact that a carbon tax will have on families and agriculture producers in Saskatchewan. Those of us living in rural and remote areas are likely to see the largest increase in living costs because of the fuel used to travel long distances and for heating homes during our cold winter months. As price-takers, agriculture producers will also be forced to absorb the cost of carbon pricing in their bottom line. In addition, while agriculture is often pointed out as a heavy emitting industry, producers have already taken steps to significantly reduce their carbon footprint, such as adopting zero-tillage farming.

While we remain unconvinced that a carbon tax is the best policy tool to address climate change, we do appreciate the federal government's move to ensure farm fuel purchased at cardlock facilities will not be subject to the fuel tax. At our recent annual convention, SARM delegates passed a resolution requesting SARM to lobby both levels of government to ensure the purchases of farm fuels are exempted from the carbon tax, wherever they may be purchased. The Honourable Ralph Goodale was also in attendance and assured our membership that the fuel tax would not apply to farm fuels purchased at cardlock facilities. We were pleased to see these amendments proposed just days later.

While we remain opposed to the carbon tax as imposed by the federal government, we thank you for listening to farmers and ensuring the fuel tax will not apply to farm fuel from cardlock facilities. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Orb". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ray Orb
President