



April 12, 2024

Honourable R.J. Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Government of Alberta

Re: Eradication of Wild Boar in Alberta

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

I am writing to you today to express our full support for Alberta Pork's proposal to eradicate wild boar in the province of Alberta. The proliferation of wild boar poses a significant threat to both our agricultural industry and our natural environment, and urgent action is needed to address this issue.

We wholeheartedly endorse the two key measures proposed by Alberta Pork: firstly, the prohibition on farming and owning wild boar in Alberta, and secondly, regulatory change to ban sport hunting of wild boar. However, we believe that for these measures to be truly effective, they must be accompanied by stiff penalties to deter any violations.

Alberta has a proud history of successful pest control programs, most notably the Alberta Rat Control Program, which has effectively kept rats out of the province. In a similar vein, we must now tackle the wild boar issue with equal determination while the costs are still manageable, and eradication remains attainable.

One of the primary concerns surrounding wild boar is their potential role as vectors or reservoirs for reportable, trade-limiting diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis, amongst others. A disease outbreak among wild boar could have devastating consequences for both the province and our livestock sectors, potentially resulting in billions of dollars in losses. A major hurdle in disease outbreak zoning arrangements between international trading partners is potential spread by, and maintenance of, pathogens in wildlife, and wild boar present a serious stumbling block in these conversations. It is imperative that we invest in proactive measures now to mitigate this risk.

April 12, 2024 Page 2

Wild boar are also incredibly destructive. They cause extensive damage to crops and sensitive ecological areas, resulting in ongoing producer losses and environmental degradation.

We believe that banning ownership of wild boar is a crucial first step in preventing the further spread of these animals. By ensuring that no new animals become at-large, we can focus on eradicating the existing population. Additionally, banning hunting of wild boar will serve to disincentivize groups and individuals from protecting or illegally breeding these animals, further aiding in their eradication. It has been well documented in other jurisdictions that hunting of wild boar hinders control efforts substantially.

In conclusion, I urge you to give serious consideration to Alberta Pork's proposal and to take swift and decisive action to address the wild boar problem in our province. The future of Alberta's agriculture and environment depends on it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brodie Haugan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Brodie Haugan
Chair, Alberta Beef Producers

Cc: Jason Hale, Deputy Minister - Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Darcy Fitzgerald, Executive Director - Alberta Pork
Megan Evans, Executive Director – Alberta Invasive Species Council