

July 12, 2022

The Honorable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Guilbeault:

Sturgeon County is writing to reiterate the concerns previously raised by other rural municipalities in Alberta regarding the Government of Canada's (GOC) 30% absolute emissions reduction target for fertilizer use by 2030.

Sturgeon County has a thriving agricultural sector that embraces technology, strives for continuous improvement, and prioritizes environmental stewardship. Responsible fertilizer use is essential in maximizing crop productivity and mitigating environmental impacts, which in turn allows for enhanced producer competitiveness against the rising costs of inputs and other commodities (such as fertilizer itself). Significant investment has already been made by the industry into research, equipment, and technology as a means to integrate 4R Nutrient Stewardship into crop production systems, which significantly reduces fertilizer emission intensity per unit of production.

Sturgeon County requests that the results achieved from previous and continued adoption of these practices be factored into emission target calculations. We also request that consideration be given to amend required targets to recognize units of production- an approach that encourages producers to continue to improve production intensity per acre to generate more food, fuel and fibre from the same land footprint.

Ultimately, it is imperative that the GOC pursue further engagement and collaboration with key stakeholders in the agriculture sector, rather than adopting a blanket approach which has proved to be unsuccessful in other jurisdictions. Municipal and provincial governments, producer and commodity groups, fertilizer manufacturers, and researchers all play a crucial role in enhancing the sustainability of Canada's unique and diverse agriculture sector and their collaborative involvement will ensure that emission reduction targets are realistic and achievable while also maintaining the viability of the agriculture sector and its ability to meet the exponentially growing global demand for food.

Sincerely,

Alanna Hnatiw, Mayor
Sturgeon County

cc: Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Mr. Dane Lloyd, Member of Parliament, Sturgeon River – Parkland
Honourable Nate Horner, Alberta Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Economic Development
Sturgeon County Council