Introduction and thank you
I hear a lot of talk about the nameless/faceless corporations that are being referred to by many presenters
Well I am here to put a name and a face to it
Worked in industry for 14 years
100% of my household income comes from raising hogs
I started by working in the barns and over the years have been given opportunities to do many different things
I feel fortunate to work in an industry that produces two great products
  1. pork to feed people
  2. natural fertilizer in the form of hog manure to grow crops
I am here today feeling that I have to defend my industry and my company
I find it disappointing to be in that position

Over my career I have worked with people who grew grain to feed to hogs and used the manure to fertilize the field to grow grain to feed more hogs
These were people who understood what sustainable agriculture was all about
This was and still is the model that we use today
People have been doing this for years
It is a model that works and can continue to be sustainable for everybody, small or large

I hear criticisms about these so-called mega barns
Do you know why they built the way they are today
They built to lower the influence of microorganisms on the food that we eat
They were built to maintain good environmental control for the animals so that they are not subjected to the elements
Ultimately they were built to help create a safer product for the consumer
And yes they were built to make money
And there is no need to apologize for that
If we didn’t make profit...I wouldn’t have my job

Over the years I have had the honour of serving on industry committees that looked at providing solutions to issues that have arisen within our industry
I have dealt with issues ranging from unjustified trade restrictions to developing new environmental regulations
If the industry is doing something now that can be improved then we want to be able to target new standards
We have one of the most proactive industries in Manitoba
If we are doing things now that require improvement, this industry has shown its commitment to change for the better
I live in this province... my family recreates on this land and in its water ways.
I am not looking to create challenges.
I want to be part of the solutions.
But first let's understand what these challenges are and who are the players involved so that we are not going on some kind of witch hunt.
I find it unfortunate that people can make outrageous claims without ever having at any real evidence to back up what they are saying.
Attacking the swine industry is just an example of good politics but bad public policy.

In summary I have witnessed a lot of changes over my time in the swine industry.
Changes that have moved the industry toward more progressive ideas and progressive thinking.
My challenge to the Committee members is to come out to see how the industry works.
Come see what processes are in place.
Visit the barns.
See the manure being applied to the fields to grow the crops.
Review the research.
And then make your recommendations after you have collected all of the relevant information.
We have nothing to hide.
And after you have done that work you'll realize it too.
I am concerned with these hearings because they will affect all livestock producers.
I am an egg producer in the Morris area together with my wife and 2 children.
We operate a barn with just under 20,000 layers which is about 165 animal units.
We want to do our part in helping to protect our water in MB.
We have retooled our barn with a dry manure system and manure storage in 2002.
No manure spills.
We have purchased a special spreader that will make a better job of getting a nice even spread pattern.
We know that manure is a valuable fertilizer and treat it that way.
We have our manure tested for values (nitrogen currently).
We work together with neighbors who are cropping to get as even and accurate application as possible (depending on the crop to be grown).
Stay 10 feet away from all ditches.
Try to make sure manure is worked into the land as soon as possible to get full value.

M.E.P. CHAIR.
TAKE CARE OF THE BIRDS.
I RECOGNIZE I NEED TO DO MY E.F.R.A.N.
RESOMABLE. RULES FOR PHOSPHORUS.
CHALLENGES TO CHANGE WITH NEW GUIDELINES.