I would like to thank the CEC for this opportunity to comment on the subject of the environmental sustainability of the hog industry in Manitoba. It is good that the CEC will listen to critics of the hog industry and their suggestions for improvement in the protection of the animals, quality of life with the resultant protection and improvement of the health of our ground and surface waters, our soil and, of course, that of our air. May I assure the hog industry if they improve their protection of the above the increasingly enlightened health-conscious consumer will accept the increased cost of their pork. One cannot increase trust in that industry by denial and putting blame on critics of their profit-oriented animal management practices. The consumer has every right to be a vocal partner in the meat they purchase and consume.

The public expects the provincial government, with the help of such communal processes as these hearings, to ensure that the hog industry raises the animals under their care with respect for their natural life processes and their feelings as living creatures. If the public perceives the hog industry as being given too much leeway to abuse the quality of life of the animals under their care by our govern-
ment which is erected, one assumes, to ensure the public's health is protected then we have a serious problem. If the hog industry is seen as contributing to pollution of our waterways such as Lake Winnipeg or our neighbouring Steenbergen Lake we assume it is the provincial government which must enact legislation to minimize and ideally eliminate this threat. Industry as well as individuals must follow the law as well as practice common sense to protect our drinking water in particular.

Unpolluted water is key to human health and welfare. It is the government's job to ensure all sentient beings are looked after. We must assure what we consume is safe and healthy, whether it's food or water. Industry constantly reminds us they follow government regulations. Therefore it is the provinces responsibility to regulate the need. Industry as strictly as necessary. Whether it's their feed, the water they consume, the air they pollute or the manure they spread.

Municipal governments are not required to bear this responsibility. In my R.M. of Horne our council has backed the responsibility to look after the public's health by denying to enact a livestock bylaw. Fortunately the province has forced our R.M.'s. to develop such bylaws.
UNDER THE NEW PUMPING ACT SO AT LEAST WE HAVE A BEGINNING. RESPONSIBILITIES GOVERNED BY I.R.O.'S. WILL BECOME AND BECOME STRICTER SO AS TO ENHANCE WATER AND AIR QUALITY AND ULTIMATELY ANIMAL AND HUMAN HEALTH.

AN EXAMPLE OF THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SYSTEM TO PROTECT ITS WATERWAYS IS THE NEW BYMANN IN THE R.M. OF KERNE.

CONSERVATION AT THE LAKE, WE MANAGED TO ACHIEVE SOME COMPROMISE, SET BACK DISTANCES FROM THE
THRESHOLD OF LORNE AROUND THE LYNX AND ROSEalie CABINS
(WE HAD THE LARGEST SINGLE FEED TO THE BOYER.) FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW I.H.O.'S. IN LORNE'S DEVELOP-
MENT PLAN. HOWEVER, SINCE THE R.M. OF LORNE HAS
NOT BEEN KNOWN TO REJUICE ANY PROPOSAL FOR A NEW
I.H.O. WE HAVE NOT GIVEN UP ON OUR EFFORT TO
PERSUADE THEM TO IMPROVE ON THEIR BYLAW.

THE PROVINCIAL PLANWITL PROCESS IS FLAWED.
THREE SEPARATE NO I.H.O.'S WERE APPROVED IN OUR
R.M. EVEN THOUGH THEY DID NOT MEET THE PROVINCE'S
FARM PRACTICES GUIDELINES. THESE WERE: PICARDIE
FARM X2 MILES OF ST. ALPHID, MARTINSONER BARN
1 MILE SOUTH OF NOTRE DAME DE LOURDES AND THE
CHERRIERE BARN TWO MILES EAST OF LOURDES. THIS
HAS REALLY BECOME A SOCIAL AS WELL AS AN EN-
VIRONMENTAL ISSUE. NO PARTY SEEMS TO TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY. OUR COUNCIL ORIGINALLY HAD NO
LIVESTOCK BYLAWS AND REFUSED TO ENACT ONE UNTIL
THEY WERE FORCED TO BY THE PROVINCE VIA THE DEVE-
LOPMENT PLAN. THANKS TO THE PROVINCE FOR THIS BABY
STEP.

TECHNICAL REVIEWS, WHICH THE PROVINCE MANDATES,
Are simply advisory. Since the reviews did not say no to construction our council saw this as an approval process.

For example, Picardie Farms' proposal did not originally meet the Farm Practices Guide line of too many dwellings within a mile of the proposed site. According to the Technical Review Committee, however, they later reversed their decision when our council arbitrarily reduced the number of dwellings and of course our council approved the project. When the neighbours to the proposed project pointed out this discrepancy to the Farm Practices Board, the board's response was that they could not deal with their complaint until after the operation was up and running. Talk about a Catch 22! It is obvious the government must improve on the complaints process before Z.N.O. projects are permitted to build.

In yet another case just west of Somersford on Hwy. #23 an Z.N.O., which had burnt, was ordered rebuilt on the same site by the Insurer across the road and less than 100' from Mr. Bill Acheson's Farm. This is not the barn proponent's farm. Good government could have intervened and mandated Insurance Companies
To permit re-construction of such barns at another site more equidistant to the neighbour and the barn owner(s). This could make for better and healthier relationships in farm communities. Who's driving the planting train anyway?

Now, it is known that it takes 4,000 to 5,000 litres of fresh clean water to produce one, yes ONE(1) Kilo of pork. An 8,000-feeder operation such as the Picardie site south of St. Lysiacon uses approximately 160 million litres of clean water a year according to Manitoba Agriculture. This is at a time when scientists are warning of Global Warming and prolonged drought. Much of the water is used to make the hog manure into a slurry to more easily (and cheaply) spread on the land which can and does create hazardous runoff and seeping into aquifers. This must change. Government must mandate composting manure systems as a real beginning to protect our ground and surface waters. Straw bedding systems must be used such as in the Bio-tech barns or the Pure New Pork and Production System (www.purelean.com).
Liquid manure pits, even with plastic liners, are known by engineers to seep up to 10% into the farmed and aquifers below. No, they don’t ‘leak’. This does not have to happen. If jurisdictions in Europe, the U.S.A. and even Quebec can produce high-quality pork profitably by using above-ground manure storage tanks, using manure composting, not using antibiotics until an animal is sick, not using sow crates and by using straw bedding then what is to prevent our government from gradually legislating the same processes here in Manitoba. Corporate hog producers must keep up with the rest of the enlightened world. They ought to wake up to consumer choice. They just might find compliance, co-operation and environmental sensitivity will profit them more than resistance and denial and their expensive ‘good science’. Let us work together, consumers and producers to create a more environmentally sustainable faster-and-leaner tomorrow. Some debate can go away.

We cannot polce the environmental sustainability of the hog industry while we’re constantly adding new barns. Just like
A fireman cannot put out a fire if we keep adding fuel to the fire.

Please, let's make this pause into a permanent moratorium.

Nine to ten million hogs in Manitoba is much more than enough.

The hog industry should not have to be reminded that overproduction leads to lower prices and even collapse of the market.

And how is that sustainable?

Thank you,
W. (Bill) Harrison

PH/FAX (204) 248-2271
Box 25, Antamont,
Rogoan MB.