October 5, 2026

Chad Anderson
President
Lambton County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Chad,

Re: SRM Harmonization 26-15

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Annual General Meeting in February and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS it has been over 8 years since Canada was granted "Negligible Risk" status;
WHEREAS CFIA still requires processors to remove and pay to destroy the extra SRM material that other Countries with the same status do not;
WHEREAS Canada imports beef from these countries that is used in grind that will contain the same SRM material that has to be removed in Canada;
WHEREAS CFIA reports to the Minister of Health;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO and the other Provincial Beef Organizations along with CCA lobby the Minister of Health to have our standards align with all of the countries that we import beef from.

Thank you for bringing this resolution forward and for highlighting the ongoing concerns regarding the burdensome regulations with Specified Risk Material (SRM) within the beef value chain in Canada. We want to assure you that this issue remains a top priority for both BFO and the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA). The BFO Board understands the significant impact that additional SRM removal and disposal requirements have on the Canadian beef industry, particularly when imported beef from countries with comparable risk status is subject to less burdensome regulatory requirements than those faced by Canadian beef processors.

BFO is pleased to note that on July 11, 2026 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) did release in Canada Gazette, Part 1, their proposed amendments to harmonize Canada's Enhanced Feed Ban (SRM) alongside a 60-day comment period on the proposed regulations. The proposed changes would ease some long-standing restrictions on SRM by allowing lower-risk cattle tissues to be used in non-ruminant feed, pet food, and fertilizer, while maintaining safeguards intended to protect food safety.

BFO did submit comments on the proposed amendments along with other stakeholder organizations within the beef industry. In our submission, key areas BFO focused on were:

- **Maintaining Strong BSE Protections While Reducing Unnecessary Burden** – Supporting continued protection of Canada's food supply while addressing requirements that create unnecessary costs and burdens for the industry.

- **Improving the Competitiveness of Canada's Beef Processing Sector** – Highlighting the need to reduce unnecessary regulatory and disposal costs that can place Canadian processors at a competitive disadvantage.
- **A Science-Based and Risk-Proportionate Approach** – Encouraging regulations that reflect the current science and risk profile of BSE and are proportionate to the actual level of risk.
- **Implementation Must Be Practical for Slaughter Facilities** – Emphasizing that any changes to SRM requirements must be workable within the operational realities of Canadian slaughter facilities and should avoid creating additional unnecessary costs or logistical challenges.

Throughout our submission, BFO emphasized the importance of maintaining a science-based, risk-proportionate regulatory approach while addressing the competitive and economic impacts that unnecessary regulatory requirements can have on Canadian processors and producers. Our full submission to the Canada Gazette, Part 1, has been attached for additional detail and context regarding the concerns and recommendations outlined above.

BFO recognizes that the proposed amendments being published in Canada Gazette Part 1 is an important step forward, however, there is still work to be done as the proposed regulations move through the federal government's regulatory process. Given the significant economic impact these requirements have on the Canadian beef sector, we have encouraged the government to move this process forward as efficiently as possible. We are hopeful to see the amendments enacted next year in 2027. BFO will continue to engage with the CCA, provincial beef organizations, other affected industry groups, and the federal government to advance practical, science-based approaches to SRM management. We will also continue to advocate for regulations that are appropriately aligned with our international trading partners and that do not unnecessarily hinder the competitiveness and viability of the Canadian beef industry.

We appreciate the Lambton County Cattlemen's Association bringing this resolution forward. The SRM issue continues to be an important priority for BFO, and we will continue to advocate for a regulatory framework that protects food safety while supporting the competitiveness and sustainability of Canada's beef sector.

As this issue progresses through the federal government's regulatory process, BFO will continue to keep our members informed on any developments and opportunities for further input.

Sincerely,



Jason Leblond
President

cc: Chris Byers (Mover)
Al Noorloos (Seconder)
Blair Williamson (Advisory Councillor)
Hanneke Mills (Secretary)