PETITION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

TO THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, ASSEMBLED:

THE PETITION OF THE UNDERSIGNED HUMBLY SHEWETH THAT the government of New Brunswick continue to financially support Atlantic Beef Products Inc. in Albany, Prince Edward Island.

Atlantic Beef Products Inc. is the Maritimes' only federally inspected beef plant, serving New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.Without continued financial backing from the Atlantic provinces, it may soon close unless purchased by a private investor.

Closure of ABP Inc. would have dire consequences as more than half of our farmers are involved in beef production. Should the plant close, many would be forced to ship their cattle to Quebec or Ontario for processing with an added expense for producers, added stress during transportation for livestock and added environmental costs for long distance transport.

Most producers must work off-farm to support their families, so added expenses would persuade many to stop raising cattle. We have already lost beef producers on Prince Edward Island due to the anticipated closure, and do not wish to see the same in New Brunswick. If we want a viable local food system, we cannot let this plant close.

Furthermore,not only beef producers will be affected. Consumers wish to buy locally produced foods. If the plant closes, the amount of locally produced beef sold in major grocery store chains will dramatically decline, replaced by product from Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta, harming our producers, and our local economy, negatively.

WHEREOF YOUR PETITIONER HUMBLY PRAYS THAT YOUR HONOURABLE HOUSE MAY BE PLEASED TO continue supporting the beef plant financially until a private investor can be found, or until the plant becomes financially viable on its own, AND AS IN DUTY BOUND YOUR PETITIONER WILL EVER PRAY.

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