



May 26, 2008

via email only to:
Tamara Pomanski, Committee Clerk
tamara.pomanski@leg.gov.mb.ca

Standing Committee on Social & Economic Development
Manitoba Legislature (39th Legislature, 2nd Session)

Dear Committee Members:

Bill 13: The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Damage to Infrastructure)

Keystone Agricultural Producers is Manitoba's farm policy organization representing individual farmers and commodity groups throughout the province. Our mission statement: "to be a democratic and effective policy organization promoting the social, economic and physical well-being of all Manitoba agricultural producers."

Manitoba's farmers are significant exporters to other provinces and countries, but also conduct business across the province with other producers, agri-businesses, and many sectors that serve our industry. We rely heavily on the ongoing health of our infrastructure system to ensure that these business transactions are timely, efficient, and safe.

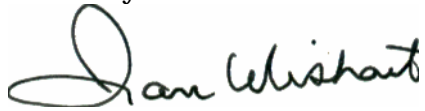
KAP generally supports Bill 13 as a means to protect the safety of Manitobans and the longevity of our infrastructure. However, we are concerned that producers may be held responsible for damages that are beyond their control. Some farmers are responsible for moving or loading some of their equipment or commodities, and may play a supervisory role for employees or other contracted persons that are given this responsibility, but this is not always the case.

As this Bill moves forward, KAP would also like to strongly encourage government to ensure that appropriate signage is posted to prevent infrastructure damage. Advisories on the height of bridges or overpasses and other relevant information must be clearly posted **well in advance**, to ensure that drivers have an opportunity to find an alternate route, if necessary. An education campaign or

complementary resources may also be useful to help inform drivers, transportation companies, farmers, and other stakeholders of any new provisions.

On behalf of KAP and our members, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Committee's deliberations on Bill 13.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Wishart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ian" being more prominent than the last name "Wishart".

Ian Wishart, President
Keystone Agricultural Producers