



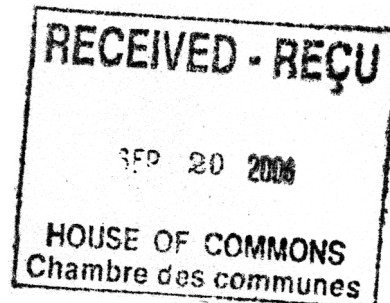
THE CANADIAN
FEDERATION
OF AGRICULTURE

LA FÉDÉRATION
CANADIENNE
DE L'AGRICULTURE

September 15 2006

The Honourable Gary Breitkreuz
Room 685, Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Larry Bagnell
446-S, Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



Dear Honourable Gary Breitkreuz and Honourable Larry Bagnell,

Re: presentation to the Outdoor Caucus on EG&S

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture represents 200,000 farmers across the country and was therefore extremely pleased to hear about the formation of the Outdoor Caucus. Many farmers are engaged in heritage activities and understand the importance of conservation on public and on private lands. The CFA promotes conservation and sustainability for the benefit of agriculture, the environment and all Canadians.

The CFA is requesting the opportunity to present to the Outdoor Caucus on agriculture, conservation, and specifically, Ecological Goods and Services (EG&S). In the recent decades, it has been recognized that agriculture produces more than food. This includes a range of other beneficial outputs such as fresh water, clean air, erosion control, climate regulation, and disease prevention, all of which are termed EG&S that benefit conservation measures and wildlife. EG&S are essential, yet these important public benefits are not valued in today's markets, they factor low in land use decisions and, as a result, are often heavily strained. There is a need to value EG&S, to provide a market mechanism so as to ensure their maintenance and enhancement now and for future generations.

To address the issue of EG&S, CFA has been supportive of the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program. ALUS is a policy concept that promotes the provision of EG&S by providing an incentive-based, non-trade distorting vehicle that encourages resource stewardship by landowners. It effectively integrates the environmental demands of Canadians into the mainstream of Canadian agriculture.

This concept of paying agricultural producers and landowners for rendering EG&S bridges the conservation demands of Canadians and the policy requirements of the industry, fosters a socially and economically viable agriculture, and helps to preserve our natural cultural heritage.

For further information, please contact myself or Shannon Watt, the CFA Environmental Policy Analyst, at (613) 236-3633 or shannon@cfafca.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Friesen', written in a cursive style.

Bob Friesen

cc: Hon. Paul Crête
Senator Gerry St. Germain