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Response to Request for Information Centre of Excellence for Methane Detection and Elimination

To: Natural Resources Canada

From: National Cattle Feeders' Association

Date: October 28, 2022

The National Cattle Feeders' Association (NCFA) is pleased to provide input into the 'request for information' put forward by the federal government on the potential impacts and benefits of a Global Centre of Excellence on Methane Detection and Elimination.

By way of background, NCFA is the voice of Canada's cattle feeders. We work to improve the growth, sustainability, and competitiveness of the beef sector in Canada so as to provide a safe, high quality and accessible beef supply to Canadians.

Please find NCFA's recommendations for the *Centre of Excellence* below.

- It will be essential that the *Centre* seek out the required expertise on methane emissions reduction in the agriculture sector and be informed of the existing sector-led initiatives on this front. This will ensure the opportunities are harnessed and the barriers removed.
- The *Centre* can play a critical role in leading research into innovation and clean technology for methane emissions reduction in close partnership with the agriculture sector. This partnership could include joint research projects, funding of sector-led projects, or close alignment of research efforts. Canada has the potential to be a world leader in this area of research.
- The *Centre* will be well positioned to access global best practices in methane emissions reduction in agriculture and can in turn share this knowledge with the Canadian agriculture sector. This allows for our farmers to build upon global lessons learned and minimize duplication of efforts.
- Additionally, the federal government can rely on the *Centre* as a key resource for global research and knowledge. Better access to this information can inform the quality and the speed by which the Canadian government can approve new innovations and clean technology for methane reduction in agriculture.

- The Canadian beef sector is frustrated with the federal government's inefficient approval system of gut modifiers for use in livestock feed. These feed additives result in very significant methane emissions reduction in cattle. The *Centre* should review the current barriers to Canada's approval process (which is globally lagging) and provide recommendations to the government on how to conduct thorough, but timely reviews of clean tech and innovation that the agriculture sector needs now.
- The Canadian agriculture sector is ready to embrace new innovations and technology to reduce methane emissions. But in reality, these methods represent a significant cost to Canadian farmers. Meanwhile, many global competitors are not facing these same costs. The *Centre* can study and provide recommendation on how the Canadian agriculture sector remains globally competitive while reducing methane emissions.
- The *Centre* has a role to play in charting a path forward for Canada to achieve our emissions reduction goals while being accountable to the resulting increase in costs at the farm gate and on grocery store shelves. This is more important than ever as the input costs on farms are at an all-time high.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of our recommendations for the *Global Centre of Excellence on Methane Detection and Elimination*. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Janice Tranberg, President and CEO of NCFA, at jtranberg@cattlefeeders.ca