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Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A4
agfo@sen.parl.gc.ca

Re: Bill S-230, An Act respecting the development of a national strategy for soil health protection, conservation and enhancement

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the National Cattle Feeders' Association (NCFA), this letter is written to outline our support for Senator Black's Bill S-230 which is currently being reviewed your Committee.

By way of background, NCFA is the voice of Canada's cattle feeders. NCFA works to improve the growth, sustainability, and competitiveness of the beef sector in Canada. Today, Canada's beef industry contributes \$14.5 billion in farm cash receipts annually, contributes \$34.2 billion to national GDP annually and accounts for 347,000 jobs, each one of which supports another 3.9 jobs elsewhere in the economy.

Canadian farmers work tirelessly to feed the country and support our economy. The foundation of this effort is the soil on which they grow their crops, feed their livestock, and raise their families. For our membership, healthy soil is essential to create healthy crops to feed our cattle. In simple terms, healthy soil supports healthy, affordable and sustainable food. More eloquently stated, "Soil is, and always has been more than mere earth beneath our feet; it is the lifeblood of our nation's growth, sustenance, and prosperity" as is noted in your 2023 Committee Report entitled *Critical Ground: Why Soil Is Essential to Canada's Economic, Environmental, Human, And Social Health*.

To that end, NCFA applauds the goals and objectives of Bill S-230. A strong national soil strategy, in conjunction with the right fundamentals in place to support Canadian agriculture, will enable Canadian farmers to harness the potential of Canada's agriculture sector. Of specific note, a national soil strategy could ensure that we embrace new innovations/opportunities to improve soil health by incorporating manure from feedlots and digestate (manure by-product after being through a biodigester/anaerobic digester). This is an excellent means by which to improve soil and create a sustainable nutrient cycle while supporting renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In closing, NCFA fully supports Bill S-230 and thanks Senator Black and all the members of the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry for their continued support and efforts on behalf of the Canadian farmer.

Sincerely,

Brad Deleeuw
Chair