

NEWS RELEASE:

Wild Rose Agricultural Producers Calls on the Government of Alberta to Withdraw Bill 19

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Wild Rose Agricultural Producers has called on the Government of Alberta to immediately withdraw Bill 19, the Land Assembly Project Area Act. This bill, currently before the Legislative assembly is considered an unfair tool by the government to acquire land for infrastructure projects in Alberta.

“Without full and open consultation from land owners, farmers, and all parties that are going to be affected, this bill will not be in the true public interest,” said Humphrey Banack, President of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers. “Compensation for land use, restrictions on what land owners can do on their own property, and the fines and imprisonment a landowner can face for violating regulations are just some of the concerns we have regarding Bill 19.”

The bill, introduced by the Minister of Infrastructure Jack Hayden, is a concern to landowners for a number of reasons. For example, it does not place a time limit for government easements to stay on a land title. Another potential problem is the lack of a test or standard that the government would have to pass in order to show the land is necessary for building a project. The Bill allows the government to purchase land, but does not present any guarantee that land will be purchased; leaving the land owner with property that could have restrictions on building, constructing, and expanding. “If someone were to purchase that property, they too would be subject to the same restrictions as the previous owner” explained Banack.

During the Monday question period in the Alberta Legislature, Premier Ed Stelmach stated in regards to a question about Bill 19 that power and utilities are needed in Calgary and Edmonton. “Calgary and Edmonton are important centres for Alberta, but should this bill pass, it does not seem to address the realty Albertan land owners would face” stated Banack.

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