



APAS applies for intervenor status in Carbon Tax court case

Embargoed for release until 12:30 PM CST, November 27, 2018 – The President of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) has announced that APAS is applying for intervenor status in the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal reference case on the Federal Carbon Tax.

APAS President Todd Lewis made the announcement at the organization's Annual General Meeting in Regina today.

"APAS members believe that their perspective on the Federal Carbon Backstop policy needs to be heard," Lewis explained. "The impacts of the proposed Federal carbon pricing scheme will add direct costs to our operations without helping to solve the problems with carbon emissions."

The application makes the case that rather than solving the problem, adding costs to agricultural producers could make them less able to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Lewis added that the Federal Government's backstop policy also failed to recognize agriculture's role in sequestering and storing carbon.

"Farmers and ranchers' entire business is based on managing the carbon cycle, and every year we sequester millions of tonnes of carbon in our cropland and pastures," Lewis explained. "Governments need to recognize that biological management of carbon is likely more important than tax policy in solving the problem. Saskatchewan producers manage 43% of Canada's cropland and 35% of the grasslands, so our contribution is important on the national scale, and this needs to be duly recognized by our Federal Government."

APAS' application also argues that the Federal Government's shared jurisdiction over the environment should not outweigh their shared jurisdiction over agriculture. "For decades, Federal and Provincial governments have worked together to build our agricultural sector, and we think that this cooperation must continue for the good of all Canadians and for our environment."

-30-

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:
Colleen Hennan
Communications and Community Relations Coordinator
Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan
(306) 789-7774 ext. 6
chennan@apas.ca



Background: APAS is Saskatchewan's general farm organization – formed to provide farmers and ranchers with a democratically elected, grassroots, non-partisan, producer-run organization based on rural municipal boundaries. As the united voice of agricultural producers and ranchers in Saskatchewan, we strive to represent the views of a wide variety of agricultural stakeholders in order to form comprehensive policies that can benefit all sectors of society. APAS is a member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.