

## **SAMPLE STATEMENT OF CONCERN**

For property owners living on or near Pigeon Lake  
Please use your own concerns and words as much as possible

**Re: Natural Resources Conservation Board Application RA21045 –  
Confined Feeding Operation, Greg Thalen and G&S Cattle Ltd.  
CFO Location: NW 3-47-2 W5M, Wetaskiwin County**

### **Filer Information**

**Name (s):**

**Municipal or Rural Address:**

**Legal Land Description** (lot, block, plan number, quarter section):

**Mailing Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

### **Directly and adversely affected**

We, your names \_\_\_\_\_ hereby submit this Statement of Concern as a directly and adversely affected party to the proposed Confined Feeding Operation (CFO). Our property is on or near the shores of Pigeon Lake which is downstream of proposed Confined Feeding and Manure Spreading Operation.

### **Seeking *Directly Affected Party Status***

Our property will be directly and adversely affected by the proposed CFO and manure spreading operation. The CFO will increase nutrient runoff into Pigeon Lake via the connecting creeks in our watershed. This lake has already experienced harmful algal blooms from an already excessive nutrient load. The lake has very little flushing or turnover and so each year additional nutrient releases will accumulate in the lake which in turn will most likely result in the increased frequency and intensity of harmful algal blooms. Our family and the enjoyment of our property will be directly affected as our use of the property is directly tied to a healthy Pigeon Lake. The consequences are not trivial to our family. Blue-green algae spreads around the lake and can affect everyone around the lake. Toxins from the algal bloom can cause health effects in humans, pets and livestock. In extreme cases it can result in death. When algal blooms are present there are beach closures and an unsafe environment for water recreation. There will also be the losses to local businesses, loss of biodiversity, and a compromised real

estate market, all of which will directly affect our community. The effect of manure impacted area runoff control falls within the NRCB's Regulatory Mandate Under AOPA

## **CONCERNS**

As a property owner at Pigeon Lake, I object to the proposed Confined Feeding Operation (CFO).

The Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan was adopted as a guide to help reduce the number of algal blooms in Pigeon Lake. The Plan calls for a net reduction in nutrient runoff into Pigeon Lake and states that statutory land use restriction on new or expanded intensive livestock operations (including CFOs), are supported.

Spreading manure from a confined feeding operation around Tide Creek and Sunset Harbour creek introduces a new risk that pollutants will adversely impact the lake and lead to harmful algal blooms.

Our property is a central place for our family and friends to get together to enjoy time near the lake and to go swimming, boating, paddle boarding, and fishing. Poor water quality, including harmful algal blooms and fish kills prevent us from enjoying our time at the lake.

If the water quality degrades, our property values will decline and we will require compensation for the investments we made on our properties, including millions of dollars spent by residents, municipalities, and the province to connect properties to a wastewater treatment system.

This lake is a well-studied lake. There has been a considerable effort and investment to protect the lake.

- The municipalities have banned cosmetic lawn fertilizer to reduce phosphorus
- Community members, including our family, are adding native plants to help slow and filter runoff from the watershed to reduce the frequency of algal bloom.

We have seen some improvements in the lake health over the past several years and do not wish to see a reoccurrence. Please consider in your decision the CFO Adverse Effects Background Report and Statement of Concern from the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association

We are a community committed to keeping the lake healthy, please do not approve application RA21045. Do not allow a confined feeding operation this close to two major creeks that drain into Pigeon Lake and protect Pigeon Lake and its watershed.