



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Where There's Room to Grow

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

August 12, 2020

Mark Summers PHD Peng
Executive Director Technology and Innovation
Emission Reduction Alberta
#746, 10104 103 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 0H8

Dear Dr. Summers,

Re: Food, Farming and Forestry Challenge

Wheatland County is a rural municipality east of Calgary, we have a diverse agricultural community and a landscape that contains thousands of prairie wetlands, river valleys, badlands and native grasslands. This County has a long history of promoting environment stewardship and promoting agriculture and the rural way of life. The aim of our agri-environmental programs is to promote sustainable management of our natural resources through information, demonstration, and community participation. The Wheatland County Agricultural and Environment Department works with local producers and partners towards the adoption of practices that will preserve natural resources within the County. Wheatland County supports the work of ALUS Canada and their proposal to Emission Reduction Alberta's Food, Farming and Forestry Challenge.

ALUS participants, farmers and ranchers produce ecosystem services on a voluntary basis on their land. These ecosystem services include carbon sequestration, water retention and filtration, pollination, soil improvement and protection, and wildlife habitat.

As Alberta rebuilds its economy it is important to include rural Alberta and the agricultural sector in the economic and environmental solutions. ALUS has a unique role in the sector, engaging farmers, and ranchers in a voluntary and positive way to be part of environmental and climate solutions and employing staff and supporting contractors in rural Alberta.



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Wheatland County is pleased that some of our farmers and ranchers are already participating in the ALUS program, as committee members and/or program participants. This project will allow more of our community to take part in the program, increase the number of acres under contract, including design and creation of each on-farm project, ongoing project management, project verification and tracking. The research and support for moving ecosystem services forward as a natural based solution is vital for future markets.

Sincerely,

Brian Henderson, CPA, CA
Chief Administrative Officer

c. Wheatland County Council
ALUS Canada
Wheatland County Agriculture & Environment Department