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**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**

Room 165  
Legislative Building  
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA  
R3C 0V8

**JUL 30 2018**

Ms. Debra Myles  
Review Panel Manager, Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project  
c/o Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor, Ottawa ON K1A 0H3  
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Dear Chair and Members of the Review Panel,

I am writing on behalf of the Government of Manitoba to express our support for the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project.

The Port of Vancouver plays a crucial role in ensuring that Manitoban exports reach global markets efficiently. Manitoba exported approximately \$792 million worth of goods in shipping containers through the Port of Vancouver in 2017. Therefore, container trade through the Port of Vancouver is of vital importance to our exporters, producers, and various industries.

Manitoba is a world leader in exporting goods such as wheat, pork and machinery. Container handling facilities at the Port of Vancouver have provided our producers with certainty that they can get their goods to world markets. With global container trade expected to continually grow, in particular to Asia, container capacity at the Port of Vancouver must increase to avoid a capacity crunch that would result in increased vessel congestion, added shipping costs and supply chain delays.

We understand that the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority has explored other options for increasing container capacity to match increasing demand for trade; yet even with other measures to increase capacity, there will be issues meeting demand by the mid-2020s. We believe that the increased capacity from this project will allow goods from Manitoba to be moved efficiently and safely to markets around the world for the foreseeable future.

For these reasons, the Government of Manitoba supports the port authority in its efforts to expand container capacity through the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We feel confident that this project will provide the necessary increase in container capacity to ensure that Manitoba and Canada as a whole can prosper for many years to come.

Sincerely,  
<Original signed by>

Honourable Ralph Eichler