



SASKATCHEWAN
CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

January 8, 2021

The Honourable Scott Moe
Premier of Saskatchewan
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK
S4S 0B3

Re: WSA's Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Projects

Dear Premier Moe,

On behalf of the Water Council for Saskatchewan, I am writing to express our full support of the Water Security Agency (WSA)'s Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Projects as there will be considerable benefits generated during the development and beyond.

Established in 2017, the Water Council for Saskatchewan is a stand-alone entity of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce that was created to fill the Province of Saskatchewan's need to have a diverse array of stakeholders at a single table. The Council believes that the sustainable future of our water resources requires shared information and dedicated effort by many. We continue to work to ensure multi-agency communication.

The Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Projects will be the largest single economic project in Saskatchewan's history, stimulating the economy at a crucial time and resulting in the immediate creation of a significant number of jobs and new investments across Saskatchewan. According to the WSA, there will be a total of 27,800 person years of employment during the 8-10 year build phase and 22,700 person years of employment per year at project maturity. Once complete, the amount of irrigable land in Saskatchewan will more than double, resulting in up to 500,000 acres of land being irrigated by these projects, thereby supporting our farmers to build new markets, diversify our crops, and improve our food supply. Value will be added to the agricultural and food processing industry. These benefits to primary and secondary agriculture alone are worth the investment of time and money into this project.

In addition to the substantial economic benefits, this project will contribute to food security in Saskatchewan and improve our climate resiliency. The lives of our citizens are projected to improve for generations into the future.

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We encourage continuing consultations with the private sector, in and outside the agricultural sector, plus with the Rights Holders of our Indigenous communities as they have a close relationship to the land and are actively leading the expansion of Saskatchewan's many value added sectors.

The Water Council for Saskatchewan is proud to support the work of WSA around their Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Projects and hope construction begins soon.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. The Water Council for Saskatchewan would be pleased to provide further comment at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Monica Kreuger, Chair
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

Cc Water Council for Saskatchewan
Shawn Jaques, President and CEO, Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

Honourable Fred Bradshaw, Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

Honourable Warren Kaeding, Ministry of Environment

Honourable David Marit, Ministry of Agriculture

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Canada

Honourable Mélanie Joly, Ministry of Economic Development and Official Languages

Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food