PETITION

TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA:

The background to this petition is as follows:

1. On January 17, 2017 the Minister of Agriculture announced a review of how Manitoba's stable funding program is administered.

2. Currently, the *Agriculture Producers Funding Act of Manitoba* states: ”Only one qualified organization may be certified as the certified organization at any one time.” 16(2).

3. Keystone Agriculture Producers, established in 1984, has been the only beneficiary of this Act to date. However, the National Farmers Union - Region 5 (Manitoba), established in 1969, is a general farm organization that is also active in the province.

4. The administration of the current stable funding program is based on check-offs from grain deliveries at elevators, excluding many types of farmers from Manitoba.

5. Other provinces have avoided these limitations of representation by ensuring farmers have a choice of two or more qualified general farm organizations.

6. The Ontario Ministry says its stable funding of multiple general farm organizations offers "the democratic freedom of farmers to choose the voice that best represents their interests” and that the "practice increases transparency, improves the quality of policy decisions and contributes to public acceptance of the decisions that are implemented."

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To request the Province of Manitoba amend the Agriculture Producers Funding Act of Manitoba to allow for the certification of more than one qualified farm group at a time, and that Manitoba develop a mechanism to distribute stable funding revenues to the qualified farm group of each farmer's choice, as is the current practice in the provinces of PEI, NB and ON.

_____

Name (Please Print)	Address	Signature
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

To request the Province of Manitoba amend the Agriculture Producers Funding Act of Manitoba to allow for the certification of more than one qualified farm group at a time, and that Manitoba develop a mechanism to distribute stable funding revenues to the qualified farm group of each farmer's choice, as is the current practice in the provinces of PEI, NB and ON.

Name (Please Print)	Address	Signature