

April 10, 2025

Honourable RJ Sigurdson

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Government of Alberta

131 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Subject: Letter of Intent to Support Agricultural Plastics Recycling in Alberta

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

On behalf of the Recycling Council of Alberta (RCA) I am pleased to express our full support for the continuation of the **'Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle It!'** pilot program for the collection of grain bags and baler twine until a permanent solution is introduced.

As member of the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group Executive team, I am also requesting the pilot be expanded to include additional plastics like agricultural bale wrap and silage plastic. This would help address the increasing demand for recycling agricultural plastics and advance our province's environmental and economic priorities.

The current program has demonstrated significant success – collecting and recycling over 4 million kilograms of grain bags and twine since the pilot began. Any pause or stoppage removes a valuable service our community and farmers now rely on. Farmers have no responsible way to manage these waste plastics without an effective and sustainable recycling solution.

The continued financing and expansion of the pilot will allow our municipal and agricultural members to:

- **Reduce Landfill Costs:** Diverting agricultural plastics from landfills will alleviate capacity pressures, lowering waste management expenses for municipalities.
- **Promote Cleaner Communities:** Recycling will mitigate the proliferation of plastic debris, creating a cleaner and safer environment for our residents and agricultural producers.
- **Support Farmers & Ranchers:** Responding to increased demand from farmers for recycling options will ensure their needs are met, preventing unsustainable disposal practices.
- **Drive Leadership & Economic Growth:** Push forward Alberta's mandate of becoming a center of excellence for plastics diversion and recycling and support the provincial economy through job creation and resource innovation.

The RCA also recommends moving forward with consultations exploring permanent recycling solutions via the province's new EPR framework. This will allow collectors and recyclers to make the longer-term investments they need to build efficiencies, and we will all benefit fully from that.

In closing, we commend the Government of Alberta for its leadership in advancing this program and recognize Cleanfarms and the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group as vital partners in ensuring the proper management of waste agricultural plastics in Alberta and allowing our farmers and ranchers to uphold the highest standards of environmental responsibility.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Koole
Executive Director
Recycling Council of Alberta

jkoole@recycle.ab.ca

cc: Assar Grinde, Chair, APRG, assargrinde@hotmail.com