



ALBERTA  
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Drayton Valley-Devon*

AR 51134

December 31, 2012

Mr. Ken Crutchfield, Chairman  
Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Conservation Committee  
Box 4990  
Edmonton, AB T6E 5G8

Dear Mr. Crutchfield:

Premier Alison Redford forwarded me a copy of your letter dated November 23, 2012, regarding the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society's support for Dr. Neil Brown's Bill 202, the Public Lands (Grasslands Preservation) Amendment Act. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked me to respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

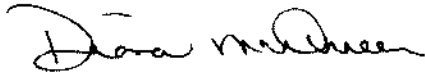
Dr. Brown gave the Second Reading on November 5, 2012, but, as you know, the bill did not receive unanimous consent and could not be voted on. Although many agree with the intent of the bill – in particular, the protection of native prairie that contains ecologically significant and sensitive wildland habitats – existing policies and legislation are already being used to guide decisions and protect native prairie.

There are concerns that the bill would duplicate the tools we already have in place to ensure Alberta's native rangelands are protected, and that it would add an unneeded layer of red tape. In Alberta, public land is not sold if it's needed for government programs, including natural resource management. We retain land with high ecological value, and we are firmly committed to an integrated resource management system.

Public land sales are guided by regional planning under the Land-use Framework, and Albertans will continue to inform the regional planning process through public consultations. In fact, we are currently gathering feedback through public information sessions to develop an effective regional plan for the South Saskatchewan region that addresses issues such as watershed protection, recreation, natural resource management, and population growth. For more information, and to provide comments about the Regional Advisory Council's advice to the Government of Alberta for the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, please visit [www.landuse.alberta.ca](http://www.landuse.alberta.ca).

We have undertaken progressive steps to safeguard the environment, and we commend the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society's dedication to excellence in wildlife stewardship and we're glad we have your support for the protection of wildlife habitat and native grassland. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with the Government of Alberta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana McQueen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Diana McQueen  
Minister

c: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC  
Premier