From: [redacted]
To: CEAA.Springbank.ACEF@ceaa-acee.gc.ca; Laura Friend
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Springbank Flood Mitigation Damn proposal SR1
Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 1:43:09 AM

As I understand, the Springbank Flood Mitigation Damn proposal SR1, or any alternative proposal, would not directly affect me or my family, however I am affected by the actions of the elected council of my county - RockyView County, and the actions of my provincial government - the Alberta government, to date.
Most notably, according to public announcements and discussions in the media, the county has made a determination to not oppose the provincial government's intentions, in a reversal of their previous opposition. It is troubling that this determination took place in a meeting behind closed doors, and moreover, doing so without disclosing the details of the meeting, whether a video recording, or transcript, or any method other than to provide prepared statements of their determination. This does not allow for public or media critique. In particular the determination has apparently been made in conjunction with an acceptance for a sum of funds in exchange for removal of opposition. That just makes their reversal of position, all the more troubling.

Based on my research, I am convinced that this is not the right decision. As a taxpayer, both at the municipal and provincial levels, while I am only aware of the "SR1" proposal, and the McLean Creek alternative, and my knowledge of the Mclean Creek alternative is very limited, I am convinced the latter is a far better option.
The aspects that convince me are
1) the difference between a "dry" reservoir with the only use being for times of flood danger, which is obviously real but unknown as to occurrence, versus a natural drainage basin reservoir that would provide the same benefit but with an expanded year-round presence though to varying degrees
2) the cost investment of the dry holding area versus the utilization of a natural drainage basin, and the related best use of taxpayer dollars
3) the considerable disturbance of lives and livelihoods versus the limited disturbance of relatively few, and perhaps no, citizens
4) devastation of existing arable land, versus provision of a lake of sorts just west of Calgary with multiple benefits
5) a singular purpose and use versus multiple recreational uses such as organized summer camps, as well as an aerial fire fighting resource, and even possible electrical power generation, though minimal and seasonally variable, but without environmental downside of fossil fuel combustion
6) future additional expense which is already in the planning stages for an additional drainage basin damn to meet the water needs of the City of Calgary in the forecasted not too distant future versus the ability to use funds being needed immediately to provide a flood mitigation measure that provides a double benefit of water conservation
7) the fabrication of a very unnatural landscape versus developing a naturally existing drainage basin
8) the claimed much greater cost of a "dry" holding area versus the cost of utilizing an existing drainage basin
9) the short-sightedness of the City of Calgary's leadership in putting pressure on the provincial government solely for the benefit of the city and without regard to affected county residents, understandably in fear of another year of flooding as was the year of 2013, yet the alternative could already be under construction if the alternative had been accepted years ago

when it became clear it would be of wider benefit to communities
10) no added benefit to other Alberta communities versus a benefit to the community of Bragg Creek and area taxpayers
11) the using of provincial tax dollars to essentially bribe the RockyView council to get them to reverse their previous position that had the support of the county taxpayers
12) the reversal decision by the county having taken place without public input, particularly when the previous position was based on public input
13) the practice of bribing having also been used to get the affected indigenous nation to also reverse their previously publicised opposition
14) the issue of water body stagnation versus a live water reservoir
15) devastation of wildlife habitat versus improvement of wildlife habitat
16) the need to largely complete the project to provide benefit versus the possibility of a growing reservoir benefit in the event of flooding danger as damn construction progresses
17) a complete environmental change with attendant disruption versus an essentially minimal environmental modification
18) an eye-sore versus an expanded scenic setting likely to be appreciated by many Calgarians year round
19) a negative effect of expropriation (already threatened) versus a harmonious relationship

Perhaps someone else could provide another comparison to make it 20 for the right decision in 2020 to get the right flood control built. These are comparisons I note, all of which trouble me. I appreciate that my councillor, and I believe my member of the provincial legislature, support the preference of the Springbank and Bragg Creek communities and area residents.

Thank you for accepting my submission,
Dave Dueck,
[redacted]
Rocky View County, Division 2.