

Schedule 11 to the Minutes of  
the Public Hearing meeting of  
Richmond City Council held on  
Monday, June 18, 2018.



[richmondchamber.ca](http://richmondchamber.ca)

June 15, 2018



Mayor Brodie and Council  
City of Richmond  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Re: Bylaw to prohibit concrete slab floors in agricultural buildings over 300 sqm**

We are writing to express our concern with the City's plans to regulate large farm buildings and greenhouses by prohibiting the use of concrete slab floors in agricultural buildings over 300 sqm and in greenhouses of any size. We understand this matter will be coming before you on June 18.

Since commercial farming began in Richmond in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Richmond's farmers, farm workers and farm families have constituted a significant part of our local economy. In fact our Chamber was established in 1925 primarily by members of the agriculture sector.

Not only do these families produce and sell a wide range of agricultural commodities, they support a broad range of Richmond businesses: legal, accounting, engineering and other professional firms; construction companies; equipment suppliers; restaurants and food processors; financial institutions; realtors; and many more. Scores of these businesses are members of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

The City has enshrined support for what our farmers do in many of its own bylaws, programs and policies. Paramount among them is its Agricultural Viability Strategy. Under the AVS the City has recognized that land in the ALR should be used to support a "competitive, diverse and flexible agricultural industry". More specifically, the AVS provides that Richmond bylaws should not impose unnecessary restrictions but should help Richmond's farmers to remain competitive and be "responsive to changing times".

The City's current plans to prohibit concrete slab floors undermine these laudable goals and potentially expose the City to legal challenges. They will impair the ability of existing farm businesses to determine the most effective and efficient methods of



production. They could deter future farm businesses from locating/investing in Richmond. They may also create uncertainty amongst all businesses in other sectors about what production methods or buildings/materials might be banned next.

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce urges council to reconsider this proposed bylaw for the sake of Richmond's farmers and the many other local businesses that rely on this valued and historic sector.

Sincerely,



Barbara Tinson, Chair  
Richmond Chamber of Commerce

cc: Richmond Members of the Legislative Assembly  
Richmond Members of Parliament  
Provincial Agriculture Minister  
Richmond Farmland Owners' Association  
Richmond Farmers Institute  
Richmond Agriculture Advisory Committee