

October 22nd, 2021

Mayor and Council
City of Delta
4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent
Delta, BC V4K 3E2

RE: Delta Fresh Cold Storage Warehouse/Food Processing Facility Proposal

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

We are writing to add our support for a local, sustainable, and homegrown solution to BC's food supply chain challenges: the Delta Fresh Cold Storage Warehouse/Food Processing Facility.

The 2020 report "The Future of BC Food System" by the BC Food Security Task Force, in collaboration with the provincial government, makes clear the scale of the challenge. The report covers a wide range of topics from the macro to the micro; global climate change, automation, pest and waste management, indoor and stratified farming; all the way down to cellular agriculture and genomics. The report's contributors all agree that a collaborative approach is the best path forward.

Farmers and food service providers throughout BC have expressed increasing frustration at the lack of local food storage and processing options currently available regionally. For years, the inefficiencies of the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, and the Okanagan's food distribution networks have continued to manifest as costly sourcing difficulties for retailers coupled with distribution difficulties for growers.

We believe the proposed Delta Fresh project represents exactly the kind of solution recommended by the provincial task force report. Located short distances from DeltaPort and the United States border, the facility would add a major piece to the framework BC will need help to meet its food supply challenges.

Delta Fresh will also provide a market (via the sublimation/freeze-drying facility) for culled product that would otherwise be wasted. This represents a significant investment in "agri-tech", another recommendation identified in the report by helping to "increase the competitiveness, efficiency and profitability of the agricultural sector through technology and innovation."

In 2020 the Delta Chamber of Commerce's policy resolution "Investing in BC's Growing Agri-Tech Sector (2020)" was unanimously adopted by the pan-provincial membership of the BC Chamber network of chambers of commerce and boards of trade. With the adoption of this resolution, the BC Chamber of Commerce makes several recommendations to the provincial government, including:

- “Establishing BC as a global agri-tech leader by supporting the innovation pathway including the development, demonstration, and deployment of new technologies,” and
- “Ensuring that there is a place to grow food and support emerging agri-tech industries by examining land use policies and other regulatory considerations”

We were encouraged to see bipartisan support for agri-tech initiatives here in Delta, as well. For example, when speaking on this topic in an op-ed article in the North Delta Reporter last year, Hon. Ravi Kahlon, MLA – Delta North said that “Delta is already playing a key role in developing the agri-tech that will allow our province to be an agricultural world leader,” and that “helping farmers, addressing climate change and increasing food production are top priorities for our government, and Delta can continue to build on the momentum we have created to drive the success of the agriculture sector in our province.”

Delta-South MLA Ian Paton spoke also about agriculture initiatives last year, in a Delta Optimist article last year, saying that “now is the time to consider bold ideas rooted in new technological developments.” He then added that “BC’s new Food Security Taskforce recommended a certain amount of ALR land be set aside specifically for agricultural-industrial use. This will be critical if BC is to bolster our packing and processing industries, as well as to provide local cold-storage facilities to help keep produce fresh, retain its value, and increase its shelf life.”

In addition to being an excellent example of innovation for the present and the future, Delta Fresh is also a perfectly positioned example of how heavily compromised agricultural land, which is no longer suitable for farming, can be utilized to benefit both the farming community as well as local consumers. With growth of another one million new residents expected by 2050, current food production will not meet both the needs of BC’s population, and CleanBC’s 2050 goals. To meet both will require the full support of business and local governments of projects like Delta Fresh.

Thank you for the opportunity to register our support. We look forward to seeing this project move forward. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



Yvonne Anderson, Chair
Delta Chamber of Commerce

cc: Hon. Ravi Kahlon, MLA, Delta – North
Ian Paton, MLA, Delta – South
Sean McGill, City of Delta
Marcy Sangret, City of Delta
Mel Cheesman, City of Delta
Board of Directors, Delta Chamber of Commerce