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December 17, 2020

Re: Springbank Offstream Reservoir (SR1)

To the Natural Resources Conservation Board:

We are writing this letter in support of the intervention of CRCAG/Flood Free Calgary and urge the NRCB to approve SR1 without delay.

We are senior citizens who are residents of Rideau Park. We have raised our children in the community, and they have attended local schools. Peter, a retired lawyer, has lived all his 72 years at 616 Rideau Road which backs onto the Elbow River. In 1945 my parents bought our home which was built in 1912. We bought the home from Peter's mother in 1974, shortly after our marriage. My four brothers and I grew up beside the Elbow and now our family and now our grandchildren enjoy the river and the island.

The 2013 flood was devastating to us. Our financial losses were substantial. Our emotional loss was more devastating and long term.

We lost our fully developed basement (which we had just renovated in 2008) as it was destroyed by the flood. Water raged over the riverbanks across our back yard and down Rideau Road through the front of our home. The force of the water was so strong that the foundations of our home were compromised, and we had to repour the foundations of our 3-storey home. We lost irreplaceable family heirlooms, the contents of our basement including furnishings and numerous personal and family items. Our backyard, which abuts the river, was also destroyed.

We were fortunate that our losses were not as significant as those suffered by so many others in Calgary and surrounding area.

We were able to restore our home and had the help of many good friends and family who were able to help us recover from the immediate impact of the flood.

It was tragic to see the destruction and heartbreak throughout our community of Rideau and Roxboro.

I estimate that we incurred significant costs to repair our home and replace lost contents. While a small portion of our costs were paid by some insurance and funding from Alberta Emergency Services, we had

to pay most of the costs out of our retirement savings. Unlike many of our neighbours I was fortunate that I had not yet retired and was able to keep working and keep the home.

Several of our neighbours were seniors who had lived in our neighbourhood for decades who couldn't afford to repair their homes. They were forced to leave the community and sell their damaged homes at a great loss. It was tragic to see the financial and emotional impact on our neighbours. Some never got over it.

Every spring we worry about whether there will be another flood.

Our losses were minimal compared with the economic havoc throughout the City of Calgary, which are well documented.

Why hasn't something been done to prevent another tragic occurrence?

Seven and a half years have passed since the flood. Numerous government and independent experts have reviewed the various alternatives to protect the economic heart of Calgary and area against a re-occurrence of the 2013 flood. They have found SR1 is the best solution. We have had three provincial governments of different parties since 2013, and all have supported the project.

The benefits of SR1 of being built greatly outweigh any potential risks of it not being constructed.

Yours truly,

Peter and Susan Jull

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