



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

**Ontario AgriCentre**

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January 10, 2012

Hon. James Bradley  
Minister of the Environment  
Ferguson Block  
11th Floor, 77 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, ON M7A2T5

Hon. Christopher Bentley  
Minister of Energy  
Hearst Block  
4th Floor, 900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A2E1

Hon. Ted McMeekin  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
11th Floor  
77 Grenville Street  
Toronto, ON M7A1B3

Dear Ministers:

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) categorically opposes the proposed solar power development at Belmont located partly in London and partly in Elgin County. This project would be located on prime farmland in contravention of the FIT regulations and in contravention of the Provincial Farmland Protection policy and in contravention of the policies in the Official Plans for the affected municipalities.

The project was originally proposed as a RESOP project. It was 'grandfathered' into the FIT program by persons unknown. In doing so, these persons waived the FIT requirements with respect to prime farmland. They also waived the authority of the municipalities under the RESOP rules. In short, the project manages to avoid any regulation or scrutiny.

Some level of government must have the right to enforce land use policies. OFA prefers that it be the most certain enforcement and that the project be treated as a FIT project in every aspect including farmland protection. Accordingly the project would be terminated immediately. At the minimum, if it is to be treated as a RESOP project, the municipalities must have the opportunity to review it and enforce their land use policies.

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Ministers, it is imperative this project be scrutinized and subjected to the rules of FIT or RESOP. To have it fall between the two and avoid any application of rules would be a travesty. We await your action to correct this unfortunate and rather suspicious oversight.

Sincerely,



Mark Wales,  
President

cc: Gail Beggs, Deputy Minister of the Environment  
David Lindsay, Deputy Minister of Energy  
Fareed Amin, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Colin Anderson, CEO, Ontario Power Authority  
Fons Vandebroek, President Elgin County Federation of Agriculture  
Ontario Federation of Agriculture Board of Directors