



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario AgriCentre

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May 12, 2016

Mr. Peter Milczyn, MPP
Chair
Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Room 1405, Whitney Block
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

Attention: Eric Rennie, Clerk

Via email to : erennie@ofa.org

Dear Mr. Milczyn:

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) wholeheartedly supports the position of the Ontario Non-Profit Network (ONN), as expressed in the attached letter, and agrees with its serious concerns with *Bill 181, Municipal Elections Modernization Act, 2016*.

OFA works closely with our county and regional federations of agriculture on policies and issues affecting the business of farming. There are a significant number of municipal issues that can have a very real impact on our farm businesses and on which we choose to take a position or on which we need to inform our members.

As clearly expressed by ONN, *Bill 181* would put a burden and a chill on the activities of our county and regional federations and on the OFA itself during municipal elections. We find that linking the right to donate to candidates to an organization's participation in election campaigns to be particularly troubling.

OFA believes the intention of the Municipal Elections Modernization Act, 2016 may have been just and noble but its execution presents draconian measures that do not serve our democratic institutions at all. In fact, the Bill stifles our ability to advise members and speak on their behalf.

OFA strongly urges the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs to introduce amendments to *Bill 181*, as suggested by ONN, to ensure it achieves its intended purposes without subverting the right of nonprofit corporations to actively participate in the democratic process.

Sincerely,

Don McCabe
President

Encl.

c: County and Regional Federations of Agriculture
Hon. Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Attorney General