



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario AgriCentre

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September 4, 2018

The Honourable Ernie Hardeman
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
77 Grenville Street
11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1B3

VIA email

Dear Minister Hardeman;

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) appreciates your knowledge of and concern for the well-being of our agricultural sector. As you know, farming and food drive Ontario's economy and has the potential for significant growth.

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs posted a draft Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) Guidance Document on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry for public comment. Agricultural Impact Assessments are a new planning tool to mitigate the impacts on agriculture from settlement boundary expansions, infrastructure and aggregate applications, primarily within the area covered by the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and, to a lesser extent, the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

OFA feels AIAs are important to ensuring adverse impacts to the agri-food sector are avoided or minimized. We wholeheartedly support the principle of using Agricultural Impact Assessments to mitigate the impacts of non-agricultural developments on neighbouring farm operations.

We understand that Ministry staff are finishing the compilation of the responses received. As soon as Ministry staff have completed this, OFA encourages you to finalize the Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidance Document and release it for widespread use.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Currie', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Keith Currie
President

c: OFA Board of Directors