



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario AgriCentre

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September 4, 2018

The Honourable John Yakabuski
Minister of Transportation
77 Wellesley Street West
3rd Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Z8

VIA email

Dear Minister Yakabuski;

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is keenly interested in the development work being done and suggested for the proposed High-Speed Rail project in Southwestern Ontario. The project will significantly impact our members in the area as affected land owners.

The OFA has enunciated its doubts about the viability and even the necessity of a High-Speed Rail (HSR) connecting Toronto to London and Windsor. We understand your government intends to complete the proposed environmental assessment for this project. As a critical part of the EA we request that a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of the proposed High-Speed Rail line be completed before any decisions to move forward are made. This needs to include a comprehensive assessment of the identified alternatives to HSR, including high-performance rail.

Nowhere in either of Mr. Collenette's two reports on HSR were the impacts of HSR on farm businesses and the municipalities along its proposed route even noted. Those most affected by the project must be those most consulted.

We trust that the Terms of Reference and the eventual Environmental Assessment will provide a comprehensive review of all costs versus the potential benefits.

Sincerely,

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

Keith Currie
President

c: Hon. Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
OFA Board of Directors