

December 18, 2019

Hon. Steve Clark, MPP  
Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands-Rideau  
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M5G 2E5

Dear Minister Clark,

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the time your staff Alex Beduz & Stephen Hamilton spent with us last week at Queen's Park and allowing us to share the priorities for Ontario's agriculture and food sector. With strong support and investments in our rural communities, we can unlock continued economic growth opportunities and drive a healthy economy that benefits all Ontarians.

Ontario's diverse and innovative agri-food industry feeds our population, fuels our rural communities and drives the provincial economy, generating more than 837,000 jobs and contributing more than \$47 billion to Ontario's annual GDP. From farmers to our diverse food processing industry, our agri-food sector is a powerhouse of possibilities.

OFA is Canada's largest general farm organization, representing more than 38,000 farm family businesses across Ontario. Ontario's agricultural and agri-food sector is among the most diverse agriculture sectors in North America. With over 200 different agricultural commodities grown and raised right here in Ontario, that's more than any other Canadian province and most U.S. states.

We appreciated the opportunity to speak about our push to ensure access to natural gas across Ontario as well as high speed internet for rural and Northern communities. Support for a stable rural school network and strong support for roads, bridges and drainage systems for rural Ontario are also key priorities for rural Ontario. We are sincerely interested in furthering the discussion around possible partnerships with Hydro One as discussed. And again, we'd like to express our appreciation for the responsiveness of your Ministry with respect to removing the schedule which would have repealed the Line Fences Act.

OFA looks forward to continuing the conversation with you and working together to strengthen Ontario's agri-food sector and rural communities.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie  
President