

December 12, 2019

Nalisha Asgarali
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Environmental Policy Branch
40 St Clair Avenue West
Floor 10
Toronto, ON
M4V 1M2

Dear Ms. Asgarali,

RE: Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) Number 019-0601 Amendments to the Pesticide Regulation (63/09 General)

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is Canada's largest voluntary general farm organization, representing more than 38,000 farm family businesses across Ontario. These farm businesses form the backbone of a robust food system and rural communities with the potential to drive the Ontario economy forward.

OFA supports the Ontario government's proposed amendments to the *O. Reg. 63/09 General* under the *Pesticides Act* to reduce complexity and modernize pesticide management in Ontario. Harmonizing Ontario's system of pesticide classification with federal pesticide categories would aid in removing duplicative application processes, reduce administration costs and time delays, and ease regulatory burden for Ontario farmers. OFA believes this alignment will streamline the approval process while still ensuring appropriate oversight.

The federal government's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is responsible for registering pesticides in Canada. PMRA's review and registration of pest control products employs a rigorous science- and evidence-based process in an open and transparent manner. Pesticides are stringently regulated in Canada to ensure human health and the environment remain protected. Maintaining general regulatory requirements in Ontario, including licensing and permitting realigned to federal categories, will continue to ensure the protection of human health and the environment.



OFA is committed to the health of Canadians and the protection of the environment. We look forward to continuing our work with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to ensure the continued protection of the environment, our agricultural sector, and ourselves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Currie", is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Keith Currie
President

cc: OFA Board of Directors