

December 6, 2019

Mr. David MacLeod  
Corporate Service Branch  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay Street  
17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M5G 2E5

Dear Mr. MacLeod;

**RE: Environmental Registry of Ontario posting 019-0629 Proposing a Statement of Environmental Values for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

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.

Ontario's agricultural and agri-food sector is among the most diverse agriculture sectors in North America. Well over 200 different agricultural commodities are grown and raised here; more than any other Canadian province and most US states. That diversity leads to differing building forms to house livestock or poultry, to store different crops, or the machinery used to grow and raise these different agricultural commodities.

In addition to the proposed considerations, OFA recommends that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's Statement of Environmental Values also include;

- Consider all aspects of the environment, including natural, social, economic, cultural and built conditions

This addition would ensure that the Statement of Environmental Values is aligned with a core principle of Ontario's environmental assessment program, as noted in the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' Modernizing Ontario's Environmental Assessment Program discussion paper (EBR# 013-5101).

Agriculture is an integral part of the environment and has both social and economic components, in addition to contributing to the natural and cultural aspects. Therefore, it is critical to agriculture that all aspects of the environment are considered.

OFA trusts that its recommendations will be given due consideration in this consultation.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie  
President

KC/pj

cc: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
OFA Board of Directors