

December 24, 2019

Mr. Michael Gravelle, MPP
Thunder Bay-Superior North
Room 421
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A4

Dear MPP Gravelle,

On behalf of the OFA I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the time you spent with us earlier this month at Queen's Park and allowing us to share with you 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.

OFA is Canada's largest general farm organization, representing more than 38,000 farm family businesses across Ontario. 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.

We appreciated the opportunity to speak with you about our priorities for agriculture and rural Ontario in 2020 including a push to ensure an efficient and affordable energy source (natural gas) across Ontario as well as high speed internet for rural and Northern communities. As we discussed, equal access to reliable internet and connectivity in general is important for students, youth and businesses in rural communities. With the right infrastructure and support in rural Ontario, agriculture and agri-food is poised to be a growth sector, offering a sustainable local food supply as well as opportunity for employment in all aspects of the value chain.

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