

December 23, 2019

Mr. Bill Walker, MPP
Bruce, Grey, Owen Sound
920 1st Avenue West
Suite 100
Owen Sound, ON
N4K 4K5

Dear Minister Walker,

On behalf of the OFA, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the time you spent with us last week 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.

Our meeting provided us a welcome opportunity to express our appreciation for this government's support in seeing the proposed repeal of the Line Fences Act dropped from Bill 132, as well as sharing our strong support for the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act.

Since our meeting on December 9th, we are extremely pleased to see announcements regarding government commitment to rural infrastructure needs such as natural gas expansion as well as launch of the first Northern Ontario Residential Broadband Project, part of the Next Generation Network Program, two platforms of OFA's Producing Prosperity campaign.

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