

June 16, 2020

Hon. Ernie Hardeman
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
11th Floor
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON
M5S 1B3

Dear Minister Hardeman,

Re: Government biomass technology funding request

Thank you for your continued leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and for your partnership in working with OFA on identifying issues and solutions to address emerging needs across the agri-food sector. As the situation evolves, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture is focused on both the challenge of COVID-19 and the ever present issues impacting the profitability, viability and sustainability of our farm members.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) would like to draw your attention once again to its request of the Ontario government to fund the development and adoption of new technology to use surplus biomass from Ontario farms as an alternative energy source to replace fossil fuels. We initially raised this request in our January 17, 2020 submission responding to Ontario's pre-budget consultations after the announcement you made at our Annual Convention in 2019.

The OFA Board of Directors passed the following resolution, as submitted by the Algoma Federation of Agriculture to the OFA's November 2019 Annual Convention:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture encourage the Ontario government to fund development and adoption of new technology to use surplus biomass from Ontario farms as an alternative energy source to replace fossil fuels.

The potential for surplus biomass from Ontario farms to provide a significant source of renewable energy was discussed at OFA's Convention. Much of this biomass is not currently utilized. To reach this potential, OFA believes that research funding should be aimed at projects that increase the efficiency of utilizing biomass therefore creating a viable market and open for business opportunities for Ontario farmers and biomass producers.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie
President

cc: Mr. Jason Koivisto, President, Algoma Federation of Agriculture
OFA Board of Directors
Stephanie Vanthof, OFA MSR Zone 15