

October 16, 2020

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward  
Mayor's Office, City of Burlington  
426 Brant Street, PO Box 5013  
Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z6  
[mayor@burlington.ca](mailto:mayor@burlington.ca)

Dear Mayor Meed Ward,

**RE: Endorsement to motion to immediately proclaim additional section of Bill 156**

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) proudly represents more than 38,000 farm family members across the province, supporting our members and the agri-food industry on issues, legislation and regulations governed by all levels of government. OFA works to ensure the agri-food sector and our rural communities are included, consulted and considered in any new and changing legislation that impacts the sustainability of our farm businesses. We are the leading agricultural advocate for Ontario farmers, their businesses and their communities. Burlington

On behalf of OFA, I would like to express our sincere appreciation of the initiative that Mayor Meed Ward and the members of the Burlington City Council have taken in endorsing the proclamation of Section 6(2) of the Bill 156 Act. We are optimistic that municipalities see a need for the effective and swift implementation of this bill to protect workers, animal transportation and local citizens. We appreciate the commitment you have to strengthen the protection of farm families, agri-food employees, animals, and the food system while still maintaining the right to lawful protest.

We hope that your support can further our recommendation of proclaiming Section 6(2) of the Act. The proclamation of this act would give enforcement officers the tools to protect both the safety of the protestors and the animals, while still protecting the right to freedom of speech and freedom of assembly in public spaces.

We would like to thank Mayor Meed Ward and all Burlington City Council members for making this motion to support changes to the Act. It is OFA's hope that your endorsement will help shed light on this crucial situation and assist us in getting to the next step in addressing these critical issues. Having the collaboration of multiple stakeholders on this matter of safety and security is very important to us and the agri-food sector.

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We greatly appreciate the initiative that Mayor Meed Ward and the City Council have taken in endorsing the proclamation of Section 6(2) of Bill 156. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions regarding Ontario's agri-food sector.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie  
President



Drew Spoelstra  
Executive Member,  
Zone 5 Director, Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth and Niagara

Cc: Councillor Kelvin Galbraith  
Councillor Lisa Kearns  
Councillor Rory Nisan  
Councillor Shawna Stolte  
Councillor Paul Sharman  
Councillor Angelo Bentivegna