

November 16, 2020

Noreen Tope  
Senior Policy Coordinator, Water Policy  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Foster Bldg 10th Flr, 40 St Clair Ave W,  
Toronto, ON M4V 1M2

Via email: [waterpolicy@ontario.ca](mailto:waterpolicy@ontario.ca)

Dear Ms. Tope,

**Re: ERO 019-2517 - Exempting dams from requiring a permit to take water**

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, proudly representing more than 38,000 farm family members across the province. OFA has a strong voice for our members and the agri-food industry on issues, legislation and regulations governed by all levels of government. We are passionate and dedicated to ensuring the agri-food sector and our rural communities are included, consulted and considered in any new and changing legislation that impacts the sustainability and growth of our farm businesses.

Ontario's diverse and innovative agri-food sector is a powerhouse for the province – growing and producing more than 200 farm and food products, fuelling our rural communities and driving the provincial economy by generating more than 860,000 jobs and contributing over \$47 billion to Ontario's annual GDP. We are the leading agricultural advocate for Ontario farmers, their businesses and their communities.

OFA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments with respect to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' proposal to remove the need for certain types of dams to obtain a permit to take water.

We note this posting did not outline what recourse would be available to downstream users who may be adversely impacted by these exempted activities. OFA insists there must be a means by which downstream users are able to register a complaint and have issues mitigated if these exempted activities negatively impact their water supply.

We trust our opinions and recommendations will be given due consideration in this consultation.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie  
President

cc: OFA Board of Directors