

November 13, 2020

Kyle Kubatbekov
Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission Secretariat
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
1 Stone Road West
Guelph, ON
N1G 4Y2

Dear Mr. Kubatbekov,

Re: 20-OMAFRA032 Amendments to Regulation 415 (Grapes for Processing - Plan) and Regulation 414 (Grapes for Processing - Marketing) under the Farm Products Marketing Act.

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.

At the request of the Grape Growers of Ontario (GGO), the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission (Commission) is proposing amendments to Regulation 415: Grapes for Processing - Plan under the Farm Products Marketing Act, which would change producer district boundaries and the allocation of district delegates to the Grape Growers' Committee and of directors to GGO's board.

In GGO's most recent review of the governance structure of their membership, an apparent shift in grower and tonnage numbers had occurred, and to ensure fair representation across the districts, a regulatory change was recommended to the Commission. The proposal would increase the representation of growers in Ontario's largest geographical districts and provide an opportunity to balance the number on the Growers' Committee. In addition, it encourages succession planning on the Committee and the Board of Directors. Included with the representation changes, GGO is also proposing geographical changes to the district boundaries in Section 8 (1) because of the increasing number of growers becoming established in locations outside of the traditional growing areas.

The Commission is also proposing amendments to Regulation 414: Grapes for Processing - Marketing under the Farm Products Marketing Act to update the name of the 'Wine Council of Ontario' to 'Ontario Craft Wineries' and of the 'Winery and Grower Alliance of Ontario' to 'Wine Growers of Ontario.' The Commission would also make housekeeping amendments to remove spent provisions.

OFA appreciates the Commission's efforts to work with GGO to ensure the needs of grape growers are met. We believe that our grape growing members would be well served by the regulatory amendments proposed by the Commission, as requested by GGO.

OFA welcomes this opportunity to provide our support for the proposed amendments to Regulation 414 and Regulation 415.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie
President

cc: The Honourable Ernie Hardeman; Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Matthias Oppenlaender, Chair, Grape Growers of Ontario
OFA Board of Directors