

June 15, 2021

Karen Jackson
MNRF – FID – Forest Economics Section
70 Foster Drive, Suite 400
Sault Ste Marie, ON, P6A 6V5
Sent via email to: forestbiomass@ontario.ca
and submitted online via Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO)

Dear Ms. Jackson,

RE: ERO # 019-3514: Ontario's Draft Forest Biomass Action Plan

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 fuels our rural communities and drives 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.

We are pleased to provide an agricultural and rural Ontario perspective on the Draft Ontario Forest Biomass Action Plan. OFA fully supports the Ontario Forest Sector Strategy (FSS) commitment to encourage "afforestation and responsible timber production on private lands that are not productive for agriculture" ([ERO # 019-8080](#) decision, posted September 3, 2020). OFA considers lands that are productive for agricultural purposes to include pastureland for grazing livestock. With respect to a Forest Biomass Action Plan, OFA would support an Action Plan that recognizes the relationship between forestry and agriculture in Ontario and supports the growth and sustainability of both sectors. OFA believes that the Action Plan should encourage afforestation and responsible timber production on private lands that are not productive for agriculture and enable the agricultural sector to conduct sustainable expansion.

Sincerely,



Peggy Brekveld
President

cc: The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs
OFA Board of Directors