

June 14, 2021

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier
Legislative Bldg
Rm 281, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

The Honourable Bill Walker
Associate Minister of Energy
10th Floor, 77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1

Dear Premier and Minister Walker,

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, I wanted to take an opportunity to thank you both and your government for the recent announcement to launch Phase 2 of the Natural Gas Expansion program, and I appreciate being part of the announcement with a quote in the government's media release.

Natural gas expansion across rural Ontario has been a leading priority for OFA for the past decade or more. Affordable energy is vital to the success of farms and rural businesses, and is important to families living in rural areas.

In addition to benefit citizens across the entire province, creating jobs, stimulating the economy and ensuring Ontario maintains a secure, stable and safe food system, we estimate natural gas access across rural Ontario could save farm and agricultural businesses and residents more than \$1 billion in energy costs annually.

The OFA sincerely looks forward to continuing to work with you and your government to further the interests of Ontario's farmers and rural Ontario residents.

Sincerely,



Peggy Brekveld
President

cc: The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
The Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Mines and Northern Development