

May 16, 2023

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier,

Subject: OFA Supports Ontario-Made Spirits in Grocery Stores

Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) members have a direct stake in the success of the spirits business in Ontario, and equal retail access for distilled beverage alcohol products is an important issue for thousands of Ontario farmers.

Ontario's large distillers purchase 100% of their raw materials directly from local farms, namely 250,000 metric tonnes of corn, rye, and wheat each year. The Ontario spirits business is the 4th largest buyer of corn in the province, and the single largest buyer of rye grain in Canada, making them vital customers to the agriculture sector.

We share the concerns of Grain Farmers of Ontario and Spirits Canada that the current retail restriction of spirits from grocery stores impact consumer convenience, and as a result distillers will lose market share as a result. We ask your support to address this red tape to support the addition of Ontario-made spirits in grocery stores alongside our beer, wine, and ciders.

Thank you,



Peggy Brekveld
President

cc: Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
Brendan Byrne, Grain Farmers of Ontario
Jan Westcott, Spirits Canada