

July 6, 2023

Amy Cronin, Chair
Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission
Ontario Government Building, 5th floor,
1 Stone Road West,
Guelph Ontario,
N0G 4Y2

Submitted online via Ontario's Regulatory Registry website and emailed to:
amy.cronin@ontario.ca and ontariofarm.productsmarketing.omafra@ontario.ca

Dear Amy Cronin,

RE: 23-OMAFRA008 - Proposed amendments to Reg 418: Greenhouse Vegetables - Plan under the Farm Products Marketing Act (FPMA)

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is pleased to support the proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 418: Greenhouse Vegetables - Plan made under the *Farm Products Marketing Act* (FPMA) that would give Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers (OGVG) the authority to appoint their own non-voting Chair rather than one appointed by the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission.

OFA is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, proudly representing more than 38,000 farm family members. OFA has a strong voice for our members and the agri-food industry on issues, legislation and regulations administered by all levels of government. We are passionate and dedicated to ensuring that the agri-food sector and rural communities are considered and consulted with for any new or changing legislation that would impact the sustainability and growth of our farm businesses.

Through the excellent leadership of OGVG, the greenhouse vegetable sector in Ontario has grown into an overwhelming success. In 2021, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the sector produced over 503 million kilograms of safe and nutritious tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers on over 3,800 acres of greenhouse. The greenhouse sector is recognized as a vital economic driver contributing \$1.9 billion to Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that year and directly employing over 10,000 people.

OFA sees this proposed amendment as a positive response to a long time ask from industry. OGVG's ability to appoint their own non-voting Chair will help ensure the sector continues to grow, modernize, and respond to a dynamic global marketplace. OFA strongly supports this proposal

to grant OGVG the authority to appoint their own non-voting Chair to govern the organization, ensure accountability to greenhouse growers, and reduce red tape.

Sincerely,



Peggy Brekveld
President

cc: George Gilvesy, Chair, Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers
Richard Lee, Executive Director, Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers
OFA Board of Directors