

October 6, 2023

The Honourable Lisa Thompson  
Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs  
11th Floor, 77 Grenville Street  
Toronto, ON  
M5S 1B3

Sent via email to: [minister.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.omafra@ontario.ca)

Dear Minister Thompson,

**RE: Increasing fertilizer production in eastern Canada**

The fertilizer industry is a major contributor to the Canadian economy and is critical to farmers' livelihoods and the success of our agriculture sector. While Canadian fertilizer production is increasing, eastern Canada still relies on imported product for key nutrients, leaving farmers in Quebec, Ontario and Atlantic Canada at risk for limited supply and excessive pricing. Farmers in eastern Canada are at particular risk of market insecurity due to geopolitical issues.

Investing in the agriculture supply chain to produce fertilizer locally provides employment for Ontarians while reducing the dependency on fertilizer imports and stabilizing prices, contributing to a resilient, secure and sustainable agriculture sector. Producing fertilizer closer to where it is used to grow food, fuel, fibre and flowers also helps meet climate change goals.

We are appreciative of the Ontario government's Fertilizer Accelerating Solutions and Technology Challenge (FAST Challenge) program, which invests in Ontario solutions that increase the availability of fertilizer options and alternatives while encouraging innovation and application of technology. While it is exciting to see some of the projects supported by the FAST Challenge coming online now, much more investment is needed to fully address the need for a secure fertilizer supply for Ontario farmers. OFA believes that Canada has a role to play here as well.

Financial support and incentives are needed to increase fertilizer production closer to home. Another potential solution is to incentivize investigation into the use of existing fertilizer infrastructure, such as the now idle facility at the Industrial Park in Augusta Township, in the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, and other such sites across Ontario. OFA would be happy to coordinate a meeting with stakeholders in the area.

As you know, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (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.

OFA will continue to advocate for increased fertilizer capacity to ensure that farmers and farming in Ontario remains profitable and sustainable. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss this issue at any time.

Sincerely,



Peggy Brekveld  
President

cc: The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Keith Currie, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture  
OFA Board of Directors  
Adrian Wynands, President, Grenville Federation of Agriculture