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December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

The Honourable Graydon Smith  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
5th Floor  
99 Wellesley St.  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1W3

Sent via email to: [NHplanning@ontario.ca](mailto:NHplanning@ontario.ca) and [PlanningConsultation@ontario.ca](mailto:PlanningConsultation@ontario.ca)  
and submitted online through the Environmental Registry of Ontario

**RE: ERO # 019-7733 Amendment to Ontario Regulation 316/07 under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 to create a recreational class provincial park in the Township of Uxbridge**

Dear Graydon Smith,

The OFA proudly represents more than 38,000 farm businesses across the province, supporting our members and the agriculture industry on issues, legislation and regulations governed by all levels of government. We are the leading agricultural advocate for Ontario farmers, their businesses and their communities.

We would like to take this opportunity to engage early in the discussion around the creation of urban provincial parks and would like to emphasize the importance of not only maintaining agricultural land but also prioritizing its protection and consideration in these types of projects.

First and foremost, the OFA believes that in prime agricultural areas, the only permitted uses should be agricultural uses, agriculture-related uses, on-farm diversified uses compatible with the surrounding agricultural operations and home-based businesses. Agricultural uses include, but are not limited to, general farming, livestock, or poultry operations, including large-scale ones, livestock breeding, growing of crops, specialty cropping, market gardening, aquaculture, orchards, apiaries, greenhouses, horticulture, nurseries, agricultural research uses and woodlot/forestry.

In the consideration for the creation of urban provincial parks, we would like to emphasize that in prime agricultural areas, recreational uses should be prohibited. We define “recreational uses” as conservation areas, **Provincial Parks**, public parks, golf courses and amusement parks. As such, OFA would like to see the clear consideration of prime agricultural areas and the avoidance of their inclusion within Provincial Parks.

We request that there be clear and explicit consideration for agricultural land, operations, and community in the proposed creation of Urban Provincial Parks and their subsequent consultation processes.



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OFA appreciates the opportunity to provide our feedback and agricultural perspectives on the proposed creation of Urban Provincial Parks. We look forward to working with the provincial government and our municipal counterparts to protect Ontario's farmlands as well as provide communities with access to usable natural landscapes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Drew Spoelstra'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Drew Spoelstra  
President, OFA

cc: Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
OFA Board of Directors