

March 21, 2024

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
16th floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Sent via email to: minister.mah@ontario.ca, mmahofficialplans@ontario.ca and PlanningConsultation@ontario.ca and submitted online through the Environmental Registry of Ontario and through Ontario's Regulatory Registry.

Dear Minister Calandra,

RE: ORR # 24-MMAH002 and ERO # 019-8273 Get It Done Act, 2024 - Amending the Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), I am writing to address the proposed amendments to the Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023. At OFA, we strongly support our municipal counterparts and the provision to allow for flexibility within municipal policy across Ontario. As we have highlighted in previous submissions, municipalities vary across the province, and it is OFA's belief that municipalities should be allowed flexibility within the local policy so long as it is in accordance with provincial policy. We would also like to maintain and reiterate our position that the protection of agricultural land should be prioritized, and best planning practices be promoted across the province.

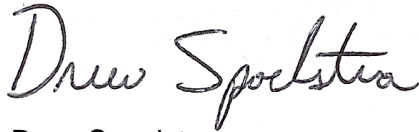
OFA proudly represents more than 38,000 farm businesses across the province, supporting our members and the agriculture industry on issues, legislation and regulations governed by all levels of government. We are the leading agricultural advocate for Ontario farmers, their businesses, and their communities.

OFA maintains its current position and recommends the province should take a holistic, systematic, province-wide approach that prioritizes protecting agricultural lands and identifies the most appropriate areas for growth with justifiable criteria and comprehensive analysis. When agricultural land is developed, it is lost forever. Ontario is losing some of its most productive agricultural land to pressures for urbanization and growth enabled by provincial policies and tools. If our province plans to continue to grow and prosper, we must also have the plan to protect Ontario's position to produce food, fibre, and fuel for the people of this province and beyond.

In addition, OFA urges the provincial government to promote and utilize best planning practices that plan for a sustainable and resilient future for generations to come. Best planning practices promote the harmonious use of our landscape for the foreseeable future, ensuring that we are planning for both the interests of today and tomorrow.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our feedback and agricultural perspectives on provincial and municipal policies. We look forward to working with the provincial government and our municipal counterparts to sustain our province's housing supply and communities while protecting our agricultural land base and supporting our agri-food sector as an economic powerhouse.

Sincerely,



Drew Spoelstra
President

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