

May 8, 2024

Lorne Coe, MPP
Parliamentary Assistant to Premier Ford
Whitney Block
Room 6522
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

Dear MPP Coe:

On behalf of the OFA Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for meeting with our representatives as part of our Queen's Park Day in April. We were glad to have the opportunity to share with you how we can partner with government and achieve the province's ambitious Grow Ontario Strategy.

- *Increase consumption of food grown & prepared in Ontario by 30%*
- *Increase production of food grown & prepared in Ontario by 30%*
- *Increase food & beverage manufacturing GDP by 10%*
- *Increase agri-food exports by 8% annually.*

With the right strategic and sound investments in rural Ontario, such as support for local food, rural economic development, broadband, natural gas and roads and bridges, we will boost farming, agri-business and rural growth and ensure an efficient, reliable and responsive food supply.

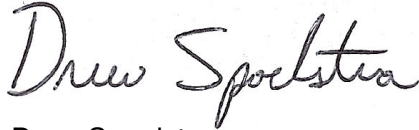
Protecting farmland continues to be a main priority of our organization. Plain and simple, Ontario farmers cannot farm without farmland. OFA is pleased to be a partner at the table, bringing forward solutions to guide responsible development and growth across rural Ontario, while protecting productive farmland.

We appreciated the opportunity to share with you our member's concerns about stormwater management fees and have followed up on our discussion with more conversations with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Rural Ontario Municipalities Association. We are grateful for the support of Minister Thompson in helping to set provincial guidance in the matter and communicating that with the municipalities.

We also appreciated your strong support and commitment around mental health and access to rural health care. The significant investments by the province through the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Program in the Farmer Wellness Program is welcome, and making a significant difference in the lives of farm families and their employees.

Thank you again for taking the time to engage in conversations about strengthening Ontario's agri-food sector. We appreciate your ongoing commitment to ensuring our food supply chain remains strong and we would be pleased to keep the conversation going. Our contact information is below.

Sincerely,



Drew Spoelstra
President
905-379-5751

cc: Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
OFA Board of Directors