



Dufferin Federation of Agriculture
P.O. Box 101, Orangeville, ON L9W 2Z5

Hon. Premier Doug Ford,

The Dufferin Federation of Agriculture (DFA) represents the interests and concerns of over 575 farm families in Dufferin County who are members of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

The DFA is increasingly concerned about the evolving land assembly of 770 acres of productive farmland in Wilmot Township for an unknown enterprise. The stated intent to rezone land use from agricultural to industrial near New Hamburg will have far reaching effects to the local community and will contribute to the rapid loss of farmland being seen province wide. Losses at the rate of 319 acres/day of farmland lost is unsustainable in the long term and this number is predicted to increase by the next census based on current development rates. Why on earth would Waterloo Farmers even wish to invest in their businesses and homes, if unilateral decisions can be made by officials that their established enterprises and families are unimportant? What is occurring is setting a dangerous and slippery precedent. If 770 acres were expropriated in the city—there would be anarchy.

The Ontario Agri-food sector contributes \$47 billion annually to the Provincial GDP and employs over 750,000 people, or 10% of the Ontario labour force. Further rapid development of prime agricultural land threatens these significant economic contributions to the province.

The DFA would also like to offer their support to comments made by the Waterloo Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture asking to allow them to engage in discussions with government to identify alternative locations for this proposed development and rezoning to minimize the loss of productive farmland. More consultation is needed to ensure a thoughtful long term planning approach is taken for this and any future projects. DFA is not opposed to future development—but it should be in the appropriate places to ensure long term sustainability of our province, our industry, the environment and its food supply.

Sincerely,

Bill McCutcheon
President

Cc
Drew Spoelstra, Ontario Federation of Agriculture,
Nic Weber, Waterloo Federation of Agriculture