

May 22, 2026

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Sent via Email: minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Flack:

Re: Letter of Support for Minister's Zoning Order Request – Cargill Sarnia Export Grain Terminal

I am writing on behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to express our strong support for Cargill Limited's request for a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) to protect the long-term operation of the Cargill Sarnia Export Grain Terminal (the "Terminal") located in the City of Sarnia.

The Terminal is a critical component of Ontario's agri-food network and export infrastructure. As one of only a limited number of export grain terminals in Southern Ontario, the facility plays a critical role in supporting Ontario farmers, food production, global trade and agricultural supply chain resilience. The Terminal handles approximately 35% of Ontario's export grain capacity and supports the movement of millions of tonnes of wheat, soybeans, and corn annually, while also receiving fertilizer inputs essential to agricultural production across nearly 400,000 acres of farmland in Southwestern Ontario.

This infrastructure is a strategically significant provincial asset that connects farm production to domestic processors and export markets as well as livestock feed operations, marine transportation and rail networks critical to the sector. Continued, reliable operation of facilities such as the Cargill Terminal ensures that Ontario farm products efficiently reach consumers and international markets while maintaining the competitiveness and viability of Ontario's agricultural sector.

As identified in similar land-use compatibility concerns involving the Ontario Food Terminal in Toronto, incompatible residential encroachment near critical agri-food infrastructure creates significant operational risks and long-term uncertainty. Supporters of the Ontario Food Terminal MZO correctly recognized that introducing sensitive land uses adjacent to essential food

distribution infrastructure can lead to complaints related to noise, traffic, odour, dust, and around-the-clock logistics activity, ultimately threatening the continued successful operation of those facilities.

The same concerns are directly applicable in Sarnia.

Cargill has advised that residential development near the Terminal is highly likely to result in increased complaints and regulatory pressures relating to its grain handling operations, truck traffic, and dust emissions - despite substantial investments they have made in mitigation measures and operational improvements. As experienced elsewhere in Ontario, including the closure of industrial agricultural operations impacted by urban encroachment, these land-use conflicts can eventually compromise the viability of strategically important facilities.

Protecting the Terminal through appropriate land-use planning measures is necessary to preserve the integrity of Ontario's agri-food supply chain and to avoid foreseeable conflicts between sensitive residential uses and commercial industrial agricultural operations. The Provincial Planning Statement (2024) recognizes the importance of protecting employment lands, transportation corridors, and agri-food system infrastructure that are essential to Ontario's economy and food security. The requested MZO is consistent with those objectives.

The Terminal contributes significantly to regional economic development, employment, and trade competitiveness. It supports local jobs while enabling Ontario producers to compete effectively in global agricultural markets. The loss or curtailment of operations at the Sarnia Terminal would have serious consequences extending well beyond Sarnia and Lambton County, affecting farmers, processors, exporters, and consumers across the province.

It is important to note the requested MZO does not prohibit economic development or redevelopment within the surrounding area of the Terminal, rather, it seeks to ensure appropriate land-use compatibility by limiting sensitive land uses immediately adjacent to a long-established industrial agricultural operation. Lands within the proposed area can continue to support a wide range of employment, commercial and industrial uses that are compatible with the Terminal's ongoing operations.

We believe the requested MZO represents a prudent, reasonable, and forward-looking approach to protecting critical infrastructure that is essential to Ontario's food security, economic resilience, and agricultural competitiveness. Ensuring the long-term viability of strategic agri-food assets such as the Cargill Sarnia Export Grain Terminal is in the broader public interest and supports the continued strength of Ontario's agricultural sector.

For these reasons, we respectfully encourage the Ministry to support the requested Minister's Zoning Order.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Drew Spoelstra
President

cc: Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
Hon. Trevor Jones, Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness
Hon. Lisa M. Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs
Mr. Bob Bailey, MPP
Keith Currie, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture
Scott Ross, Executive Director, Canadian Federation of Agriculture
OFA Board of Directors
Paul Nairn, Member Services Manager, Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Karen McLean, Member Services Representative, Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Mike Belan, President, Lambton Federation of Agriculture
Leah Belan, Office Administrator, Lambton Federation of Agriculture
Jeff Harrison, Chair, Grain Farmers of Ontario
Crosby Devitt, Chief Executive Officer, Grain Farmers of Ontario
Jennifer Marchand, AVP & Government & Industry Relations Leader, Cargill Limited