



St. Thomas Economic Development
545 Talbot Street
St. Thomas, ON N5P 3V7

Municipal Clerk
Municipality of West Elgin
22413 Hoskins Line
Rodney, ON N0L 2C0

April 20, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

As the Manager of Business Development & Entrepreneurship with the St. Thomas EDC, I have had the opportunity to work with Ryan and Jessica Statham and The Brandywine Inc. over the last several years. I have witnessed their business grow from a small farm stand at a local brewing company to an established agribusiness. They have been regular vendors at the Horton Farmers' Market in St. Thomas, as well as Wildflowers Farmers' Market, and several local markets (such as Rosy Rhubarb, Dutton Night Market, Rural Roots Christmas Market, etc.). They have developed a strong following for their own products and are big supporters of other local small businesses.

Their proposed farmer's market in West Elgin would greatly assist local small businesses in the agribusiness sector by providing them a venue to showcase and sell their products. In addition, the market would bolster community pride in West Elgin and benefit the downtown businesses in West Lorne with increased traffic and economic activity in the community.

I believe that this market would benefit the municipality as whole and provide an opportunity to support several local small businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Kerkvliet", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Mike Kerkvliet
Manager of Business Development & Entrepreneurship
St. Thomas EDC