



RECEIVED
MAY 04 2020

April 21, 2020

Honourable Ernie Hardeman
Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1B3
minister.omafr@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Hardeman,

Ontario farms have come under increasing threat from trespassers and activists who illegally enter property, barns and buildings, causing significant disruptions to the entire agri-food sector. These activists are trespassing under false pretenses to gain entry on to farm properties. They have seized private property and threatened the health and safety of Ontario farms, employees, livestock and crops. These individuals and organizations are causing health and safety concerns and undue stress to Ontario farmers, their families, and their businesses. Once peaceful protests have escalated to trespassing, invading, barn break-ins and harassment. These incidents distress farmers, their families and employees, and threaten the health of livestock and crops when activists breach biosecurity protocols, ultimately putting the entire food system at risk.

We strongly support the new proposed legislation, Bill 156: Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act. This new legislation is an important way to keep our farm and food supply safe for all Ontarians. Bill 156 provides a balanced approach to protecting farms while recognizing a citizen's right to protest. This new legislation will ensure farm businesses have a legal standing to protect their farm, family and employees, livestock, crops and ultimately the entire food system. Bill 156: Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act is good news for Ontario's agri-food industry.

Thank you for this important new legislation. Protection of our Ontario should be the highest priority.

Yours Very Truly,

Warden Dave Mennill

cc: Elgin Federation of Agriculture
Municipality of Bayham
Southwold Township
Municipality of West Elgin

Town of Aylmer
Malahide Township
Municipality of Dutton Dunwich
Municipality of Central Elgin

County of Elgin
450 Sunset Drive
St. Thomas, Ontario
N5R 5V1 Canada
Phone: 519-631-1460
www.elgin-county.on.ca