

**Dear Mayor and Council,**

**RE: Bill 156, *Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act***

The Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Federation of Agriculture represents the voice of agriculture in the local community, and advocates on behalf of our farm family members. Along with our Commodity partners in Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the KLHFA is committed to a sustainable and profitable future for farm families.

Ontario farms have increasingly come under threat of unwanted trespassers and activists who are illegally entering property, barns and buildings, seizing private property and threatening the health and safety of the farm, employees, livestock and crops.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, the provincial government introduced Bill 156, *Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019*. The bill is intended to protect Ontario farm animals, farms, farmers and their families, and the safety of the entire food supply by addressing the ongoing threat of unwanted trespassing and from unauthorized interactions with farm animals. The risks of these actions include exposing farm animals to stress and potential diseases, as well as the introducing contaminants into the food supply.

The KLHFA appreciates the support from the provincial government for taking a strong stance to protect our farms and food safety, and introducing more significant consequences for illegal trespassing activities.

The KLHFA is calling on all municipal councils in the province to reassure their citizens that the safety of Ontario farm animals, farmers and farm families, and the safety of the entire food system matters. We respectfully ask that your council show your support for Bill 156 by sending the following letter (see below) to Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Honourable Ernie Hardeman.

If you have already indicated to Minister Hardeman your support for Bill 156, we thank you for your initiative!

Thank you for showing your support for stronger legislation to protect Ontario farms, animals, and food from intruders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barry Baxter", is written over a horizontal line.

**Barry Baxter, KLHFA President**

**February 10, 2020**