



March 31, 2023

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Hon. Victor Fedeli  
Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
18th Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M5B 2H7

Hon. Lisa Thompson  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
11th Floor, 77 Grenville Street  
Toronto, ON M5S 1B3

Dear Premier Ford, and Ministers Fedeli and Thompson,

**Re: *Bill C-282 - An Act to amend the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Act (Supply Management)***

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We write to you today to express our serious concerns with federal Bill C-282, *an Act to amend the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Act (Supply Management)* that recently passed second reading, and is currently under review by the federal Standing Committee on International Trade.

Ontario, like many Canadian jurisdictions, is heavily dependent on reciprocal trade relationships with markets across the globe. Simply put, these trade relationships underpinned by progressive trade agreements, support and drive Ontario's economic activity and our global reputation as a free trade partner. International trade accounts for nearly two thirds of our economic activity and supports more than one out of every six jobs. Within Ontario, trade volumes and values have experienced tremendous growth in recent years thanks in part to the progressive trade agenda that provincial and federal governments have embraced in pursuit of economic growth and prosperity.

Bill C-282, if passed, would create significant negative consequences across sectors of the economy that would undoubtedly damage our reputation and standing as a free trade partner, and would severely constrain our ability to negotiate meaningful trade agreements and improved market access in the future.

We believe it is entirely counterproductive to Ontario and Canadian interests to effectively tie the hands



of trade negotiators before negotiations even begin. Bill C-282 would also set a very dangerous precedent by inviting other sectors and trading partners to seek exclusions from trade negotiations, which would lead to less ambitious and commercially meaningful outcomes across all economic sectors.

Ultimately, the unwavering defence of the supply management system, which is the root of Bill C-282, should not occur at the expense of all other trade and export dependent sectors of the Ontario and Canadian economy. History has proven that threats to the existing supply management system brought in through progressive trade agreements have been addressed through significant and unprecedented compensation awards for affected sectors, rightly or wrongly. Which is to say, other policy tools are available to mitigate future potential threats to the supply management system from an international trade perspective, without legislating the system's protection through a bill like C-282. Future governments can and should keep all options on the table to support the most meaningful and robust trade agreements possible.

While Bill C-282 has passed second reading, we strongly encourage Parliamentarians of all stripes to consider the long-term damage that will be caused if this bill is passed. Free and open trade is essential to the economic wellbeing and prosperity of all Canadians. Bill C-282 runs counter to this wellbeing and should be voted down at the next available opportunity.

As trade dependent sectors, we would appreciate your support and willingness to share our concerns with your federal counterparts.

Sincerely,

Phil Kroesbergen, Chair  
Veal Farmers of Ontario

Jack Chaffe, President  
Beef Farmers of Ontario

Jim Clark, Executive Director  
Ontario Cattle Feeders' Association