



March 7, 2023

Bobbi Ann Brady
Member of Provincial Parliament, Haldimand-Norfolk
50B Gilbertson Dr.
Simcoe, ON N3Y 4L8

Dear Bobbi Ann,

Re: Bill 62 - The Farmland and Arable Land Strategy Act

On behalf of the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO), please accept this letter as support for the Private Member's Bill, Bill 62 *The Farmland and Arable Land Strategy Act*. BFO represents 19,000 beef farmers in Ontario by advocating in the areas of policy planning, industry development and research, environmental sustainability, animal health and welfare, and domestic and export market development.

Farmland in Ontario continues to be lost to urbanization or non-agriculture uses at an unsustainable rate. Ontario's agricultural lands not only support our province's food production capacity, but provide important ecological goods and services, such as carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat and healthy soils. Ontario's beef producers, through the management of agricultural grasslands throughout the province, play a critical in the provision of such services.

Agriculture is the backbone of our rural communities and local economies and is important to the quality of life of all Ontarians. Ontario's farmland must be better protected to ensure the future food production capacity exists throughout the province and across commodity sectors.

We are pleased to support the Private Member's Bill entitled *The Farmland and Arable Land Strategy Act* and its objective to better protect Ontario's farmland through the development of a strategic action plan and a stakeholder-led Farmland and Arable Land Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Richard Horne, Executive Director
Beef Farmers of Ontario

