



August 24, 2015

Public Input Coordinator  
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Species Conservation Policy Branch  
300 Water Street  
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8M5

Attention: Public Input Coordinator

Re: EBR #012-4735 – Amendments to Ontario Regulation 667/98 (Trapping) made under Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act to regulate the use of relaxing cable restraints for trapping in Ontario

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) represents the 19,000 beef producers in Ontario by advocating in the areas of policy planning, industry development and research, and domestic and export market development.

BFO is extremely pleased by the proposed amendment to the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act that will regulate the use of Relaxing Cable Restraints (RCRs) across Ontario. Conflicts with wildlife continue to be a major issue for beef producers across the province. Calves and other livestock that are killed or injured by predators result in serious economic losses for producers even when compensation is provided under the *Ontario Agriculture-Wildlife Compensation Program*. BFO would like to thank Minister Mauro for responding to our request to regulate the use of RCRs in Ontario and to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) for the opportunity to comment.

While BFO strongly supports the proposal the lack of permitted use in the area in-and-around Renfrew County where no open season for coyotes and wolves exists is a significant shortcoming. According to OMAFRA statistics, Renfrew County had the third highest number of cattle killed or injured by predators in 2014-15. Prohibiting use of RCRs in this region will result in a considerable disadvantage for farmers in a pocket of the province with one of the highest densities of livestock and above average annual predation related claims.

In addition, it must be emphasized that any supplementary conditions that may be placed on the use of RCRs at the conclusion of the consultation period ensures accessibility for farmers and trappers and does not constrain the scope of use in a manner that reduces the potential benefits to farmers who wish to use the device in protection of their livestock.

BFO would like to thank MNRF for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulatory amendment and we would be pleased to meet with you to further discuss our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Bob Gordanier  
President

