



January 22, 2016

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Minister of International Trade  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

Dear Minister Freeland,

On behalf of Ontario's 19,000 beef farmers, I am writing to you today to express our enthusiastic support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (APP) Agreement reached in October.

Ratification and implementation of the TPP Agreement would give Ontario access to a market of over 800 million people and nearly 40 per cent of the world's economy, a point that was stressed in a letter to our Premier, the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, this past June. Of particular importance, the Agreement will ensure that Japan provides improved and equal access to all TPP beef supplier members, a top priority for the Canadian beef industry. This would offer important benefits to Ontario's flagship beef brand, Ontario Corn Fed Beef, which recently partnered with the Kinsho grocery chain in Japan.

The longer the TPP ratification is delayed, the greater the trade disadvantage will become for Canadian beef in the Japanese market. Our competitors in Australia implemented a free trade agreement with Japan in 2015 and are already enjoying a tariff advantage on their beef exports. Ratifying this Agreement will gradually reduce Japan's tariffs on Canadian beef and will restore our competitive position with Australia, and other TPP competitors. Within Japan alone we have the potential to triple beef exports.

Significant opportunities for increased Ontario and Canadian beef exports also exists in emerging beef markets such as Vietnam and Malaysia, and will resolve the current exclusion of some beef access in Peru, which is important.

Minister, we believe the TPP will provide significant economic opportunities for the Ontario beef industry. Ontario's beef farmers and processors deserve the opportunity to compete on an equal footing in the rapidly growing pacific region. The beef industry is good business for our great province and this great nation. As such, we urge you to support the swift ratification and implementation of the TPP Agreement.

Sincerely,

Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier  
Hon. Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Hon. Michael Chan, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade

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