



January 11, 2017

The Honourable Jeff Leal  
Minister, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
11<sup>th</sup> floor, 77 Grenville Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1B3

Dear Minister Leal,

As the European Parliament and the legislatures in each European Union (EU) member country work towards ratifying the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), there remains a major outstanding issue for our industry that needs to be resolved prior to sign-off by the province of Ontario.

The remaining concern is the slow progress the EU is making to resolve technical issues that will allow agri-food exporters to have commercially viable access to the EU. For the beef industry, it is the approval of certain antimicrobial carcass washes used in red meat processing in Canada. Despite the approval of these washes for other products in the EU, they are not currently approved for use in beef or pork processing.

It is the request of the Board of Directors of the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) on behalf of the 19,000 beef farmers we represent that the provincial government withhold its support for CETA until the current technical barriers to export Ontario beef are resolved.

Like TPP, the CETA deal holds great potential for beef exports through duty-free access to the world's largest economy. As we expand the province's cow herd and develop the next producer-owned brands to ensure that Ontario can meet increasing consumer demand for locally raised and produced beef, overcoming the barriers to accessing the global marketplace for our products becomes increasingly vital to strengthening our industry.

We would appreciate your support of our request and would be happy to discuss with you further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Bowman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Bowman  
President

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