



May 23, 2014

Sue Russell
Policy Analyst
Ministry of Natural Resources
Species at Risk Branch
300 Water Street
Floor 2, Robinson Place South Tower
Peterborough, K9J 8M5

Re: Environmental Registry: 012-1596

Dear Ms. Russell,

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment of Ontario Regulation 197/11 under the Endangered Species Act, 2007 with regard to agricultural operations and Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark.

While we fully support the proposed amendment to O. Reg 197/11 which would continue the exemption for agricultural operations in relation to Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark for an interim period of 14 months, we fully expect a long-term exemption to be implemented at the end of the interim period with no gaps or delays.

It must be acknowledged that farmers play a critical role in the creation and management of hayfields and pastures which provide habitat for Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. Without a long-term exemption for agricultural operations, we risk disenfranchising the entire agricultural community while eliminating any hope of cultivating support from farmers to implement protection and recovery measures that benefit grassland birds.

On behalf of the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO), we thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal and welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the impact of the proposed amendment in further detail.

Sincerely,

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

Bob Gordanier
President

