

August 4, 2023

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor,
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario,
M7A 2J3

RE: ERO 019-6813 - Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument

Dear Minister Clark:

Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO) appreciates this opportunity to provide comments on the review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument.

CFO represents 1,300 family-run chicken farms in over 330 communities across Ontario and contributes over \$5.0 billion to the provincial economy each year. Ontario chicken farmers are passionate about providing consumers with a stable supply of safe, healthy, locally-grown chicken. All farm-families follow the mandatory *Raised by a Canadian Farmer* On-Farm Food Safety Program and Animal Care Program – of which all CFO farmers are audited annually to ensure they meet the requirements of the programs.

Chicken Farmers of Ontario appreciates the government's consideration to extend the deadline for comments to August 4, 2023. Additionally, CFO is grateful for the government's clarification that it is not the intention for severed lots to be transferred or sold to non-family / farmer-owners, and for the commitment to protecting farm operations from residential uses.

Chicken Farmers of Ontario does continue to ask that, where possible, prime agricultural lands continue to be protected for their intended agricultural use. The demand for chicken will continue to grow with Ontario's population and out of necessity, new and existing farmers will need the space to build barns that are also in compliance with the Minimum Distance Separation formulae.

Additionally, CFO would encourage the government to consider maintaining the Provincial Agriculture System Mapping for prime agriculture areas. With the number of municipalities responsible for planning decisions across the province, a standard and consistent map would preserve reliable protection of farmland.

On behalf of CFO's 1,300 family-run farms, thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument.

Regards,



Murray Opsteen, Chair
Chicken Farmers of Ontario



Denise Hockaday, CEO
Chicken Farmers of Ontario