

TURKEY FARMERS OF ONTARIO
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August 4, 2023

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

Dear Minister Clark,

The Turkey Farmers of Ontario (TFO), representing over 150 farm families and business across Ontario, wishes to express its appreciation to the Government of Ontario for extending the comment period on the *Proposed Provincial Planning Statement* for an additional 60 days.

TFO applauds the government's goal to target the construction of 1.5 million homes in Ontario over the next ten years. We believe this housing goal complements the government's *Grow Ontario* agri-food strategy and its goals to attract agri-food talent and increase Ontario agri-food sector employment over the next ten years. TFO encourages the government to adopt a balanced approach and adopt proposals that work towards the government's housing targets while also supporting the continued viability and prosperity of Ontario agriculture and farmland.

TFO is concerned about the prospect of unrestricted residential lot development in rural areas and the impact this may have on neighbouring agricultural lands and livestock operations. We encourage the government to maintain the limited approach towards residential lot creation in prime agricultural areas as contemplated in the *Provincial Policy Statement 2020*. Existing settlement areas should continue to be the focus of housing growth and development.

TFO does support the proposals to permit additional subordinate residential units in prime agricultural areas; we believe this can provide a means to support farm succession planning and worker housing. Such additional units should be contemplated only in a manner such that subsequent lot severances of these units do not become a future possibility.

TFO also supports the maintenance of a provincially-mapped Agricultural System, to ensure that prime agricultural lands are consistently mapped across all of Ontario and assure that sufficient farmland is maintained for future generations to produce safe, locally-grown and high-quality Ontario farm products for Ontarians.

We thank you again for this opportunity to provide input. Please do not hesitate to contact myself should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Jon-Michael Falconer General Manager, TFO