



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario

December 15, 2015

The Hon. Charles Sousa
Minister of Finance
7th Floor, Frost Building South
7 Queen's Park Cres.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Dear Minister:

The past November, the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC) held a lunch meeting here at Queen's Park to discuss the positive economic impact of the Risk Management Program. I was pleased to join them and to speak to them about the issues and opportunities facing our agricultural sector, including our farm families.

The OASC, which includes the Beef Farmers of Ontario, the Grain Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Pork, the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency, and the Veal Farmers of Ontario, are calling on your Government to begin increasing the maximum potential contribution in the Risk Management Program from \$100 million to \$175 over three years, with the first \$25 million increase coming in the 2016/17 Provincial Budget.

I know that you are in the process of considering the key decisions which will be reflected in the Provincial Budget, and that the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs will be conducting pre-budget hearings, beginning January 18.

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TED ARNOTT, MPP • WELLINGTON - HALTON HILLS

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I unequivocally support this recommendation of the OASC and ask that you include it in your Budget. Farmers need certainty. Their labour feeds us. The current Risk Management Program is good as far as it goes, but it needs to be enhanced. Please listen to rural Ontario.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Ted Arnott, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills

TA:dr

Cc: Premier Kathleen Wynne
The Hon. Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs
Dave Stewart, Beef Farmers of Ontario
Barry Senft, Grain Farmers of Ontario
Stefan Larrass, Ontario Pork
Jennifer MacTavish, Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency
Erin MacDuff, Veal Farmers of Ontario