



February 18, 2020

Bill 156, *Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act*

The **Peterborough County Federation of Agriculture** represents the voice of agriculture in the local community, and advocates on behalf of our farm family members. Along with our Commodity partners in **Peterborough County** and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. We are committed to a sustainable and profitable future for farm families.

Ontario farms have increasingly come under threat of unwanted trespassers and activists who are illegally entering property, barns and buildings, seizing private property and threatening the health and safety of the farm, employees, livestock and crops.

On December 2nd, 2019, the provincial government introduced **Bill 156, *Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019***. The bill is intended to protect Ontario farm animals, farms, farmers and their families, and the safety of the entire food supply by addressing the ongoing threat of unwanted trespassing and from unauthorized interactions with farm animals. The risks of these actions include exposing farm animals to stress and potential diseases, as well as the introducing contaminants into the food supply.

The **Peterborough County Federation of Agriculture** appreciates the support from the provincial government for taking a strong stance to protect our farms and food safety, by introducing more significant consequences for illegal trespassing activities.

The **Peterborough County Federation of Agriculture** is calling on all municipal councils to reassure their citizens that the safety of Ontario farm animals, farmers and farm families, and the safety of the entire food system matters. We respectfully ask that your council show your support for Bill 156 by sending the following letter (see below) to Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Honourable Ernie Hardeman, John Vantof NDP Critic, Agriculture and Food, Rural Development, and John Fraser Liberal Critic, Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Thank you for showing your support for stronger legislation to protect farms, animals, and food in Peterborough County from intruders. As this issue is time sensitive, if your municipality is going to support we would urge you to do so at your earliest convenience. This Bill is currently at second reading.

Sincerely,

Karen Jopling

President Peterborough County Federation of Agriculture

pcfagriculture@gmail.com

705.927.5677

Hon. Ernie Hardeman
Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1B3

Via Email: minister.omafra@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Hardeman,

Ontario farms have come under increasing threat from trespassers and activists who illegally enter property, barns and buildings, causing significant disruptions to the entire agri-food sector. These activists are trespassing under false pretenses to gain entry on to farm properties. They have seized private property and threatened the health and safety of Ontario farms, employees, livestock and crops. These individuals and organizations are causing health and safety concerns and undue stress to Ontario farmers, their families, and their businesses. Once peaceful protests have escalated to trespassing, invading, barn break-ins and harassment. These incidents distress farmers, their families and employees, and threaten the health of livestock and crops when activists breach biosecurity protocols, ultimately putting the entire food system at risk.

We strongly support the new proposed legislation, *Bill 156: Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act*. This new legislation is an important way to keep our farm and food supply safe for all Ontarians. Bill 156 provides a balanced approach to protecting farms while recognizing a citizen's right to protest. This new legislation will ensure farm businesses have a legal standing to protect their farm, family and employees, livestock, crops and ultimately the entire food system. *Bill 156: Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act* is good news for Ontario's agri-food industry.

Thank you for this important new legislation. Protection of our Ontario should be the highest priority.

Sincerely,

SIGNATURE

copy: pcfagriculture@gmail.com

John Vanthof
Critic, Agriculture and Food, Rural Development
Rm. 156, Main Legislative Bldg.
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Via Email: jvanthof-qp@ndp.on.ca

Dear Mr Vanthof

Ontario farms have come under increasing threat from trespassers and activists who illegally enter property, barns and buildings, causing significant disruptions to the entire agri-food sector. These activists are trespassing under false pretenses to gain entry on to farm properties. They have seized private property and threatened the health and safety of Ontario farms, employees, livestock and crops. These individuals and organizations are causing health and safety concerns and undue stress to Ontario farmers, their families, and their businesses. Once peaceful protests have escalated to trespassing, invading, barn break-ins and harassment. These incidents distress farmers, their families and employees, and threaten the health of livestock and crops when activists breach biosecurity protocols, ultimately putting the entire food system at risk.

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copy: pcfagriculture@gmail.com

John Fraser
Critic, Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Room 448, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto (ON) M7A 1A4

Via Email: jfraser.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Dear Mr Fraser

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