



Norfolk County
Officer of the Mayor
Governor Simcoe Square
50 Colborne St., S.
Simcoe, Ontario N3Y 4H3
519-426-5870
Fax: 519-426-7633
norfolkcounty.ca

February 23, 2021

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ministers,

I am writing to advise that Norfolk County Council supports the attached Norfolk County Agricultural Advisory Board's letter regarding the application of the carbon tax on primary agriculture producers. It is the recommendation of Norfolk County Council that the Federal Government consider the concerns of the agricultural community and move to exempt all primary agriculture producers from current and future carbon taxes. Please find attached the full recommendation.

Thank you for your attention,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristal Chopp".

Kristal Chopp
Mayor, Norfolk County

P.c. Norfolk County Council
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Ontario Municipalities

Dec 7, 2020

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, MP
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Bibeau

Our agricultural advisory board (AAB) who represents the agricultural sector in Norfolk County, Ontario is very concerned about the federal government's current carbon pricing policies. It is our hope that you consider our concerns and move to exempt all primary agriculture producers from current and future carbon taxes.

Carbon tax remains as a major cost of production for producers in Norfolk County. Although some farm fuel purchases are exempt, it is selective and does not meet the needs of the entire agriculture industry. Currently crop drying, heating/cooling of livestock barns and cooling of perishable commodities are still subject to full carbon taxes.

Currently there are no replacements for fossil fuels in agricultural production. As a result, carbon tax policies are not appropriate for the agricultural sector and only decrease farm margins.

Norfolk County which is known as Ontario's garden is home to one of the country's largest diversity of crop production. In addition to the extensive vegetable, fruit and grain production it boasts some of the highest ecological diverse natural habitats, plants and animals in Canada. There is approximately 25% tree cover in the county which is the highest percentage of forested land in Southwestern Ontario. Norfolk County It is also home to over 10,000 acres of woodlots and wetlands protected under Long Point Conservation Authority. In addition to the natural woodlots and wetlands there is also extensive fruit production with 2000 acres of apples and 1000 acres of sour cherries. A mature orchard can fix upwards of 18 mt of CO₂ annually.

The adoption of production practices to protect the soil and environment are advanced in Norfolk County. There has been a wide implementation of cover cropping, planting green and reduced tillage practices all of which sequester carbon. Additional farming practices of 4R nutrient management coupled with precision technology ensure that appropriate nutrients are applied at the right time, place and rate. In many cases sensitive water sources around ponds and wetlands are planted with buffer strips and soil erosion control measures of grassed waterways and windbreaks are also common practices. ALUS (alternative land use) programs have been embraced across the county, taking unproductive land out of production, and returning it to natural native grass plantings, trees and constructed wetlands. Currently there are 1148 active projects with 189 producers covering 1573 acres in Norfolk County managed under the ALUS program.

The agriculture industry has made great strides to protect the environment and will continue to improve production practices that reduces the carbon footprint in food production.

The AAB board believes that all on farm fuels used in agricultural production should be exempt from carbon tax. This should include natural gas, propane, gas, and diesel. We strongly urge the government to be consistent with a sector wide exemption to current carbon tax policies.

Sincerely,

Dustin Zamecnik
Chair of Norfolk County Agriculture Advisory Board