



WELLINGTON FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

Janet Harrop

President

7764 Nichol SR 5 RR1 Fergus ON

N1M 2W3

519-820-9293

ijharrop@hsfx.ca

www.wfofa.on.ca

Lisa Hern

Secretary-Treasurer

RR 2 Kenilworth ON

N0G 2E0

519-848-3774

wellington@ofa.on.ca

October 11, 2016

Township of Mapleton

7275 Sideroad 16, Box 160

Drayton, ON N0G 1P0

Dear Council:

The Wellington Federation of Agriculture (WFA) is the largest farm organization in the County of Wellington and works in concert with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA). Both federations work to develop consensus in a diverse agriculture industry and lobby for policies that create a sustainable and profitable environment for farming in Ontario. WFA represents over 1300 farm business within the County of Wellington.

Wellington County is an agricultural powerhouse. According to the 2011 census of Agriculture, Wellington County farms generate more than \$ 685 Million in farm gate receipts annually, provide 58,000 weeks of work to the local labour market, and are stewards of over 495,000 acres of land. The Wellington Federation of Agriculture was a partner in the County of Wellington Business Retention and Expansion study, whereby agriculture was identified as one of 4 key sectors within the County

The Wellington Federation of Agriculture would like to underline the fact that farmers in the County are already providing a substantial positive contribution to the environment and are essentially providing a significant level of un-paid goods and services.

The proposal to charge Development Charges on farm buildings is unacceptable. Imposing additional costs to Farm Capital Projects will slow agricultural growth within the municipality, which is your number one economic driver and job creation engine. Development Charges are clearly to recover costs for municipal servicing of new buildings and to recover costs of services for the people who live on prime agricultural land. In the case of farm buildings there are no water or wastewater services used and the people who live on the land already pay Development Charges when they build their residential dwelling. We ask that that bona-fide farm use building continue to remain exempt from Development Charges in keeping with economic development strategies and all other lower and upper tier levels of Government in Wellington County.

Respectfully,

Janet Harrop,
President