

April 30, 2020

Kirby Dier
Network and Microgrid Policy
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
77 Grenville St, 6th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2C1

Dear Mr. Dier,

RE: EBR 019-1503 Proposal to identify and protect a corridor of land for future electricity infrastructure in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is Canada's largest voluntary general farm organization, representing more than 38,000 farm family businesses across Ontario. These farm businesses form the backbone of a robust food system and rural communities with the potential to drive the Ontario economy forward.

Under *EBR019-1503*, Ontario proposes to overlay a GTA Transmission Lines and Infrastructure Corridor within the Northwest GTA Transportation Corridor. Overlapping the two corridors is expected to minimize environmental impacts and reduce costs. The OFA supports processes to concentrate transportation and energy infrastructure to lessen environment impacts, reduce costs and limit the size of encroachments. Ontario loses 64,000 acres of farmland each year to development.

We support the proposed EBR with a recommendation to ensure access to agricultural lands will maintain biosecurity protocols, reduce interruptions of regular farming activities, including planting, applying crop treatments, harvesting, and pasturing of animals. OFA insists that landowners should be notified before their lands are entered. Access must also consider processes to reduce damage to crops and soil compaction, compensate farmers for production interruption and address consequences should farmers be unable to use all their land.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie
President

cc: The Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs