

July 31, 2023

Hon. Steve Clark,  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Clark;

**RE: Proposed Provincial Planning Statement - ERO Number 019-6813**

Dear Minister Clark:

SAMI Inc. operates a family farm in Southern Ontario. In addition to farming, our family retains a licence for an active mineral aggregate operation. We support the changes noted in the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, specifically the amended wording in Proposed Policies 2.3.4 and 2.6.1 (subject to a minor wording change noted below).

Proposed **Policy 2.3.4** provides a clear, concise framework to provide for growth in municipalities.

Proposed **Policy 2.6.1** provides a reasonable range of land uses on “*rural lands*” (i.e., *lands outside settlement areas and outside prime agricultural areas*). However, some upper tier Official Plans do not divide the rural lands into prime agricultural areas and non-prime agricultural areas. We are of the view that, in this case, residential development can be permitted on low-capability agricultural lands, i.e. Class 4-7 soils and in gravel pits. We ask that the definition of Rural Lands be revised to read:

*Rural lands: means lands which are located outside settlement areas and which are outside Prime Agricultural Areas **or not on Prime Agricultural Land.***

We also request that clarity be included in section **4.3 Agricultural** Policies of the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement. We are asking the Province to permit the establishment of a “unit” for agricultural purposes in the Prime Agricultural Area. This will allow for the division of multiple chicken barns on our farm, via an agricultural plan of condominium. Ownership of the individual barns could be transferred to each of our sons, while still retaining the original farm parcel for the purpose of spreading manure and meeting the requirement of our Nutrient Management Plan.

Should you have any questions, I would be pleased to discuss this matter further.

Yours truly,

Alexander Innes



cc.

[ryan.amato@ontario.ca](mailto:ryan.amato@ontario.ca) [kirstin.jensen@ontario.ca](mailto:kirstin.jensen@ontario.ca) [growthplanning@ontario.ca](mailto:growthplanning@ontario.ca)