Ontario Federation of Agriculture

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Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Building and Development Branch
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Toronto, ON
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Submitted via email: **buildingcode.consultation@ontario.ca**
and submitted online via the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO)

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: ERO #019-4974: Proposed Changes for the Next Edition of Ontario's Building Code (OBC) – Winter Consultation

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, proudly representing more than 38,000 farm family members across the province. OFA has a strong voice for our members and the agri-food industry on issues, legislation and regulations governed by all levels of government. We are passionate and dedicated to ensuring the agri-food sector and our rural communities are included, consulted and considered in any new and changing legislation that impacts the sustainability and growth of our farm businesses.

Ontario's diverse and innovative agri-food sector is a powerhouse for the province – growing and producing more than 200 farm and food products, fuelling our rural communities and driving the provincial economy by generating more than 860,000 jobs and contributing over $47 billion to Ontario's annual GDP. We are the leading agricultural advocate for Ontario farmers, their businesses and their communities.

OFA appreciates this opportunity to provide input to ERO #019-4974: Proposed Changes for the Next Edition of Ontario's Building Code, as it pertains to farm buildings and stresses the importance of this consultation to Ontario's agricultural industry.

Diversity in agricultural production leads to differing building forms to house livestock or poultry, store different crops, or the machinery used to grow and raise these various agricultural commodities. Farm buildings can have their distinctive structural requirements. It is understood that these proposed changes to the Ontario Building Code (OBC) are meant to reflect changes to modern farming operations and the diversity among farm buildings and operations, accounting for their unique hazards, differences, and structural changes or fire safety considerations.

OFA appreciates the Ministry's willingness to further explain these proposed OBC changes and respond to our technical questions. OFA also appreciates having the opportunity to provide our

comments and recommendations by April 1, 2022. As our review and evaluation of the proposed OBC changes and their implications for agriculture proceeds, we look forward to further discussions and opportunities to collaborate to ensure the OBC meets the needs of the farm community as it applies to farm buildings.

Sincerely,



Peggy Brekveld
President

cc: OFA Board of Directors