Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association
Association des constructeurs d'habitations **d'Ottawa**

#108 – 30 Concourse Gate, Nepean, ON K2E 7V7
Tel: (613)723-2926 Fax: (613)723-2982

October 1, 2024

The Honourable Graydon Smith
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
70 Foster Drive
Suite 400
Sault Ste Marie, P6A 6V5

Re: ERO 019-8268 Advanced Wood Construction Action Plan.

Dear Minister Smith,

Please accept the below from the Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association (GOHBA) and its members as a submission to the government's request for feedback on *Advanced Wood Construction Action Plan* (ERO 019-8268).

GOHBA is supportive of the government's efforts to address our housing affordability and supply crisis with outcomes-focused and relevant solutions that directly target steps to support the increase of housing supply in Ontario. We applaud all efforts from the government that encourages innovation and investment- in this case, in advanced wood construction.

In summary, GOHBA provides the following comments and recommendations to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry as discussions centred around *The Advanced Wood Construction Action Plan* and it's three overarching goals continue:

Increase the use of Ontario wood and grow wood's market share in construction

- By using Ontario-grown wood, we hope that mass timber building materials will, in turn, become a more affordable option for builders.

Establish Ontario as a leader in advanced wood construction manufacturing and expertise

- We would emphasize 'Objective 2' where research and particularly the advancement of codes, standards and regulations would become an essential component of the success of this proposal.

Encourage the use of sustainable materials in infrastructure

- Our members are keen on the possibilities of locally sourced and manufactured wood fibre insulation products
- To achieve the goals set out by the Ministry, we would encourage more support, promotion, education and training initiatives for wood-based systems.

Conclusion

We wish to reinforce that the main priorities of the government, and any legislative measures that are considered, proposed, and introduced, must continue to focus on housing supply and housing affordability. GOHBA urges the government to continue consulting with the industry on future actions, education opportunities and planning as it relates to the *Advanced Wood Construction Action Plan*.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this proposal. We are pleased to answer questions or provide further information as requested.

Sincerely,

Jason Burggraaf
Executive Director