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August 8, 2024

To: Premier Ford

The Bruce County Federation of Agriculture (BCFA) represents the interests and concerns of over 1600 farm families in Bruce County. We advocate on behalf of farm families on agricultural issues and are a dedicated voice of agriculture in the local community.

BCFA wishes to support the motion from the Municipality of Kincardine which is being presented at the AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) Annual Meeting. As you know, municipalities provide the services that Ontarians rely on every day.

Rural municipalities such as Bruce County are negatively impacted financially through lack of provincial and federal support. Bruce County receives one of the lowest levels of grant support from the provincial government in the province. Since last fall, AMO has called on your government to commit to working with municipalities on a Social and Economic Prosperity Review to put municipalities on solid fiscal footing for the benefit of Ontario's competitiveness and quality of life. The review calls on the provincial government to sit down with municipalities and work together to conduct a joint review of revenues, costs and financial risks, as well as an analysis of Ontario's infrastructure investment and service delivery needs. The review is critical to Ontario's ability to make progress on the issues people care about most, including housing, healthcare, cost of living and public safety. The municipal fiscal sustainability challenge is urgent, province-wide, and central to Ontario's social and economic prosperity.

The fiscal framework that enables municipalities to do this work is broken. Failing to fix this problem fails residents, small businesses, health and public safety partners, major industries as well as agricultural businesses. Committing to supporting this at the upcoming AMO Meeting will support rural taxpayers in Bruce County and across the province.

Working together to build a better Ontario.

Sincerely,

Chris Cossitt, President BCFA

Cc: Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
the Minister of Finance;
Lisa Thompson MPP
Rick Byers MPP
the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

IN UNITY THERE'S STRENGTH