



Lisa Thompson, MPP
Huron-Bruce

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August 26, 2016

Betty Mercier
300 Dufferin Ave.
P.O. Box 5035
London ON N6A 4L9

Dear Ms. Mercier,

RE: Private Member's Bill on Certified Crop Advisors

I am writing today to seek your support for my efforts to eliminate the limitations placed on Certified Crop Advisors with respect to their employment opportunities under ON Reg. 139/15.

As you are aware, on August 31, 2017 the Liberal government is implementing a new regulation that will prevent Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) employed by a manufacturer or retailer of a Class 12 pesticide from acting as a professional pest advisor. While the overall ban on neonicotinoids has presented many challenges and obstacles to those who are in need of their benefits, this particular component of the regulation has serious implications for Ontario's farmers and agri-food industry.

In Ontario, there are currently 538 active CCAs capable of conducting the pest assessments required of farmers looking to purchase these seeds and seed treatments. However, with the implementation of this regulation, that number is expected to drop to approximately 80, with only 2 CCAs left to serve Northern Ontario. With so few CCAs available, it is likely that many farmers will not be able to access this product in a timely manner when it is most needed.

Further, should the change to the definition of professional pest advisor be affected, Ontario would be at an economic disadvantage, as it would be the only jurisdiction in North America to implement such an exclusionary clause.

In response to this action, and in working closely with the Certified Crop Advisors Association of Ontario, it is my intention to introduce legislation that will eliminate this exceptionality clause and not only allow farmers the freedom to work with whomever they choose, but also expand a network that is being increasingly constricted.

In closing, it is my hope that you will support Ontario's agri-food industry and this initiative, and put forward a resolution at your next council meeting. Such a document would be most





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beneficial in demonstrating the need for this legislation among your local corn and soybean farming community.

If you have any comments, or if you require any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 416-325-3467 or by email at lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org.

Your support in this effort is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa".

Lisa Thompson, MPP
Huron-Bruce



Municipal Resolution on Supporting Agricultural Experts in Their Fields

WHEREAS, Ontario-grown corn, soybean and wheat crops generate \$9 billion in economic output and are responsible for over 40,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Ontario farmers are stewards of the land and understand the importance of pollinators to our environment and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the Ontario government is implementing changes to ON Reg. 63/09 that would prevent any Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) from carrying out a pest assessment if they receive financial compensation from a manufacturer or retailer of a Class 12 pesticide ; and

WHEREAS, Ontario's 538 Certified Crop Advisors are capable of and willing to conduct pest assessments will be reduced to 80 should the proposed changes to the definition of professional pest advisor be implemented in August 2017; and

WHEREAS, the reduction in CCAs would force corn and soybean farmers to terminate the relationships that they have built with experts that understand their unique crop requirements, soil types, and field conditions, placing undue delays on planting crops;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Council of (name of municipality) supports the efforts of the Member of Provincial Parliament for Huron-Bruce to eliminate barriers to employment opportunities for CCAs, and allow Ontario farmers the freedom to engage in business with the expert of their choice; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Members of Provincial Parliament and municipalities.