



YORK REGION

FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

SERVING THE FARM COMMUNITY SINCE 1940

Monday, March 9, 2015

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq
Minister of the Environment and
Minister Responsible for Parks Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

The Honourable Brad Duguid
Minister of Economic
Development, Employment
and Infrastructure
8th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 2E1

The Honourable Senator Richard Neufeld
Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Energy,
the Environment and Natural Resources
The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada, K1A 0A4

Honourable Parliamentarians:

I write to you today on behalf of the York Region Federation of Agriculture and the farmers in the Rouge National Urban Park to reconfirm our support for the passage of Bill C-40 *An Act respecting the Rouge National Urban Park* to Third Reading in the Senate without amendment. We want to clear up any misconception that we support any of the amendments that have been suggested to the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources by groups or individuals.

The York Region Federation of Agriculture members are the 700 farm businesses in York Region and Toronto including the farmers in the Rouge National Urban Park.

We believe that this Bill provides the best protection of the 7,500 acres of Class 1 farmland and sustainable farming activities in the Rouge National Urban Park while at the same time improving the ecological health and preserving the cultural heritage of the area.

The farmers in the Park have been living on yearly leases with an uncertain future since they were expropriated 40 years ago. We support the integrated approach to balancing nature, culture and agriculture found in Bill C-40.

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What the Rouge National Urban Park farmers want and need from you, Minister Duguid, is your support for the transfer of the Provincial lands to Parks Canada and your support for Bill C-40 and its swift passage in the Senate, without amendments. Putting forth amendments that would likely stall passage of Bill C-40 until the next Session of Parliament, would suggest that you do not have the farmers best interests or needs at heart.

Again, we ask the Honourable Senators of the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources to send Bill C-40 to Third Reading without amendment to ensure its enactment during this Session of Parliament.

Regards,

Mike O'Hara *Paul Reesor*

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President

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Cc: Senator Tobias Enverga
Alan Latourelle, CEO, Parks Canada

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