



LONG-TERM THINKING FOR TODAY'S ISSUES

March 24, 2020

Mr. Philip Lawrence, MP
Northumberland-Peterborough South
12 Elgin St. E
Unit No. 4
Cobourg, ON
K9A 0C5

Re: Bill C-206 entitled “An Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (qualifying farm fuel)”

Dear Mr. Lawrence,

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) is an Accredited Farm Organization representing the interests of over 4,000 farm families in Ontario who are called to the vocation of farming. CFFO policy promotes economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable farming, advocating that farmers receive fair return for their production and stewardship efforts.

We are writing to indicate our support for your Private Member’s Bill C-206 “An Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (qualifying farm fuel).” This Bill addresses a key gap in the current Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act which did not exempt marketable natural gas and propane in the definition of “qualifying farm fuel,” except for greenhouse operators with a proper exemption certificate.

However, Bill C-206, as currently worded, leaves out fuels used by firms who provide essential services directly to farmers, including commercial grain elevators and feed mills. Fuels are used by these businesses to dry grains and oilseeds and to produce livestock and poultry feeds. The exemption should be extended to include fuels used by these businesses for services like these to farmers.

After a difficult spring and fall in 2019, with harvests either delayed or coming off too wet, farmers took yet another hit with the carbon pricing from the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act adding even higher costs to the propane used to dry crops after harvest both on farm and at grain elevators.

This issue of carbon pricing comes in the context of many other ongoing challenges for farmers as well, including trade wars, rail strikes last fall followed by rail blockades earlier this winter. Global markets continue to suffer from the impact of low oil prices and reduced economic activity from the pandemic health crisis. In this context, farmers need greater support from government, not higher costs.

We hope that MPs in all parties will see the value of supporting your Private Member's Bill as a way to support farmers. Agriculture is an industry vital to our food supply, health and economic prosperity.

Thank you for your support for farmers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Scharringa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ed Scharringa, President
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

cc: Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, MP, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Hon. Ernie Hardeman, MPP, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ontario