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February 20th 2018

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Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Policy and Program Division
Source Protection Programs Branch
40 St Clair Avenue West, Floor 14
Toronto, ON M4V 1M2

EBR 013-1840 Regulation Proposal: Establishment of Regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) is an Accredited Farm Organization representing the interests of over 4,000 farm families in Ontario.

In rural areas, many residents rely on municipal water systems to obtain their potable water. These systems in Ontario are regulated under the Clean Water Act and are subject to certain rules and regulations. The proposed regulation states that any amendments to a source water protection plan must go through municipal council resolutions before a permit may be obtained. Furthermore, areas around wellhead and intake zones must have their source protection areas delineated before a permit is able to move forward.

The CFFO recommends that if changes occur to a municipal water system, affected landowners should be informed about the proposed amendments and changes to the system. Landowners should have a clear understanding of the regulation and its changes and how it will affect their land. The municipality should coordinate with the landowner to ensure adequate consultation.

The process for creating source water protection plans was funded by the provincial government. The proposed alteration expenses would fall to the municipal government. The CFFO recommends that amendments be funded by the provincial government. As these plans are created and implemented by this level, we recommend that municipalities are not burdened with the costs associated with the permit process.

We appreciate this opportunity to respond to this regulation proposal, thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

THE GENERAL FARM ORGANIZATION THAT IS ROOTED IN FAITH & GUIDED BY VALUES



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