



June 13, 2024

Economic Development Policy Branch
1 Stone Road West
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2
Letter submitted through the Ontario Regulatory Registry

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Proposed Amendments to Ontario Regulation 701/20 - General, made under the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2020

Ontario Pork welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the Proposed Amendments to Ontario Regulation 701/20 - General, made under the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2020.

Ontario Pork represents the province's 1,919 pork farms and is a leader in the agriculture industry. Led by producers, Ontario Pork is committed to sustainable growth in the pork sector, delivering government representation, research investment, and industry improvements in areas including animal care and environmental sustainability, while growing the brand and reputation of producers and their product. Ontario's pork sector represents a significant part of the Canadian economy, combining - from "farm to fork" - \$1.34 billion in GDP, over 18,347 full-time jobs and \$3.51 billion in economic output.

Ontario Pork continues to strongly support the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019 (Bill 156) and Ontario's pork producers greatly appreciate your government's commitment to protecting farms, farmers, livestock, transporters, abattoirs and meat processors, and the food supply, from trespassing and harassment by groups and individuals. We were pleased that the Ontario Superior Court of Justice recently upheld the Act in its entirety after a 2021 court challenge and that the legislation was determined to be completely constitutional.

Ontario livestock farmers follow high standards of animal care, which are set out in federal and provincial legislation – led by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Our national Pig Code of Practice sets a high bar for animal care, environmental stewardship and worker well-being. Those standards also include biosecurity and husbandry protocols designed to protect animal health and care.

Pork producers support peaceful protest on public property under the rights of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly enjoyed by all Canadians. However, our sector continues to be concerned with extremist groups and individuals whose activities put the health of animals, the safety of food and the livelihood of farmers at risk.

Ontario Pork, our members and government have worked together to develop and implement emergency preparedness programs, to prepare for any foreign animal disease entry into Canada. Anyone entering barns or farms, handling animals or moving between barns without following proper biosecurity protocols compromises the entire agricultural ecosystem.

Regarding the proposed amendments, Ontario Pork has the following comments:

- We support the proposed change to the definition of "harm to a farm animal" because it clearly distinguishes that harm does not include actions taken in accordance with accepted agricultural practices.
- We support adding a section to the regulation that clarifies that animals used in petting zoos or circuses are not farm animals.
- We understand and support the intent of the proposed amendments relating to false pretenses, and journalist and whistleblower exceptions.

Our organization would once again like to thank you for your continued support of the swine sector and the agri-food industry, and for the opportunity to participate in this important consultation.

Sincerely,



Tara Terpstra
Board Chair

cc: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs