

Support for *Bill 98, Signage to Promote Ontario Produced Agricultural Products Act, 2008*

“We very much appreciate your efforts to reduce red tape and help farmers promote their products through appropriate highway signage. The bill is also an important one of our consumers who get frustrated in not being able to locate local producers. The demand for local food is growing and your private member’s Bill will certainly help facilitate this phenomenon.”

Neil Currie, General Manager, Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

“We at Local Food Plus bring farmers and consumers to the table to share in the benefits of environmentally and socially responsible food production. We know first hand the incredible demand for local food and the challenges consumers face finding and purchasing Ontario grown product. We also strongly support increasing the economic sustainability of Ontario farmers and we believe Bill 98 will help to accomplish just that.”

Lori Stahlbrand, President, Local Food Plus

“I was very pleased to hear Mr. Hardeman was introducing a Private Members’ Bill addressing the issue of signage to promote agriculture. I believe this is a positive step to support agriculture, Ontario Farmers and the economy as well as making fresh produce more available to all Ontarians.”

Charles Emre, Asparagus Farmer, Norfolk

“As Chair of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, I commend Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford, for his Private Members’ Bill to make it easier for Ontario growers to advertise their fresh crops in season. The ability to erect a directional sign on privately owned, agriculturally zoned land makes sense for farmers and consumers. The intent is simple: to link consumers with fresh, locally produced food that might otherwise be hard to find on country side roads.”

Brenda Lammens, Chair of the Board, Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association

“In Renfrew County local farmers have experienced problems trying to advertise their food product at the gate. We in the NFU hope that Mr. Hardeman’s bill around highway signage manages to get past partisanship and passes at the legislative level.”

Dave Mackay, President, Renfrew County National Farmers Union

“Our industry has a great tradition of on-farm sales and this bill would help ensure this tradition continues.”

Kevin, Schooley, Executive Director, Ontario Berry Growers Association

“This bill addresses on a very practical level the “access” issue for consumers to easily find the “local” food they are being encouraged to incorporate into their healthy diet choices, and local community economic health.”

Lyndon Stewart, Executive Director, 4-H Ontario

“Mr. Hardeman is to be congratulated for taking this step towards helping farmers and eaters find each other.”

Grant Robertson, National Farmers Union

“I would be glad to support your bill in any way I can. I am surprised the Ontario Government hasn’t recognized the importance and necessity for what the Bill will do to help our farmers survive in these difficult days.”

T.I. Hughes, President, Canadian Farm Animal Care Trust

“The Niagara Peninsula Fruit and Vegetable Growers’ Association acknowledges the difficulties facing growers who wish to promote on-farm sales and the problems caused by inconsistent enforcement and over regulation by government. Growers need to be freed from red tape and be allowed to market their crops in ways that are profitable.”

Tom Wiley, President, Niagara Peninsula Fruit & Vegetable Growers’ Association

“I support your private members bill providing Ontario farmers an exemption from existing legislation.”

Doug Macpherson, Consultant, Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario

“As an industry that relies heavily on farm gate freezer trade we the Board support your bill and its intentions to make it easier for our 3,900 producers to use farm-advertising signage.”

Allan Burn, Chair, Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

“The unique challenge for farmers seeking seasonal sales is that many aren’t located on the well-traveled provincial highways and so both farmers and consumers have come to rely on directional signs to help people find when crops are being harvested and where they are available.”

Anne Howden Thompson, Ontario Farmer