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September 26, 2011

Hon. Dwight Duncan
Minister of Finance
7th Floor, Frost Building South
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Hon. Carol Mitchell
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
11th Floor
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON M5S 1B3

Dear Ministers Duncan and Mitchell:

Brant County Council approved the following resolution at their meeting held on September 20, 2011:

"Whereas Ontario Regulation 282/98 of the Municipal Tax Act classifies commercial grain elevators as an industrial use;

And whereas this classification has resulted in significant increases in property taxes for commercial grain elevator operators, resulting in higher costs to grain farmers and the loss of local businesses and jobs;

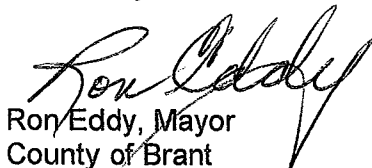
And whereas the 2002 Beaubien Report on Property Assessment and Classification Review recommended that grain elevators be removed from the industrial property class and included in the commercial class because they do not manufacture, produce or process anything;

Be it hereby resolved that the Council of the County of Brant supports the requests from the Ontario Agri Business Association and the Grain Farmers of Ontario to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs that Ontario Regulation 282/98 (Section 6(2), Paragraph 4 of The Municipal Tax Act) be amended to reflect that "elevators used to receive, store, clean, treat or transfer feed for livestock or grain" are removed from the industrial property class and included in the commercial property class;

And further that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association and to all rural municipalities in the Province of Ontario for their support."

As the resolution states, this matter negatively affects commercial grain elevator operations and farmers through increased costs for drying their grain. We request your serious consideration of this request.

Yours truly,



Ron Eddy, Mayor
County of Brant

cc Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Rural Municipalities in the Province of Ontario
Dave Levac, M.P.P., Brant Riding
Sandra Vos, President, Brant Federation of Agriculture
Ontario Agri Business Association
Grain Farmers of Ontario