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Hamilton-Wentworth Federation of Agriculture

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To whom it may concern;

On behalf of President Mel Switzer and the Members of the Hamilton-Wentworth Federation of Agriculture, we wish to express our support to approve an application for a zoning amendment and for the construction of the Green Organic Dutchmen's new, legal cannabis production facility.

The Green Organic Dutchman has been a member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture for over four years and has been a "model citizen" in terms of opening their doors to those interested in learning about cannabis production or their own on-farm methods. Their future production plans will require a greenhouse that is greater than the 2000 square meter restriction currently imposed by the City of Hamilton's out dated By-law for medical marijuana production.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture, along with OMAFRA, Agri-Food Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency have recognized the future production of growing and processing legalized cannabis as an agricultural commodity. Therefore, HWFA as a "grassroots" organization of the OFA, also acknowledges the process of growing cannabis as part of the agricultural industry.

Further to this, the HWFA with the guidance of Drew Spoelstra, OFA's Zone 5 Director, Vice-Chair of HWFA and Chairperson for the City of Hamilton's Ag & Rural Affairs Committee, have provided opportunities to educate those interested in learning more about the cannabis growing process. We have listened to concerns, allowed those that wished to voice their concerns to do so and have had full dialogue on this matter.

All appropriate channels have followed due process, resulting in the consistent messaging of cannabis being considered an agricultural commodity.

We thank you for your attention and the consideration of this matter.

Regards,

Mel Switzer
President, HWFA