To [insert name],

Municipal candidate for [insert municipality]

I am writing to you on behalf of Grain Farmers of Ontario to congratulate you on your successful election as municipal councillor. Grain Farmers of Ontario is the province’s largest commodity organization, representing over 28,000 barley, corn, oat, soybean and wheat farmers. Our organization looks forward to working with you on important local issues for the next municipal term.

Ontario’s grain farmers work to put safe, nutritious food on Canadian tables, and to grow a greener, more sustainable future for Ontario farming and our food system.

**Grain Farmers produce jobs and economic activity in rural communities**

Grain farming is a major economic driver in rural communities across Ontario. The Ontario grain industry employs over 75,000 people in communities across the province and generates $18 Billion in economic activity. Our industry contributes over $7 Billion in government tax revenue-- $1 billion of which is paid directly to municipalities in Ontario.

**Grain Farmers & the Environment**

Ontario’s grain farmers are committed to preserving biodiversity on our farms, adopting responsible, innovative practices, and to protecting the local soil and waterways that keep our fields healthy, our food safe, and our communities sustainable.

We’re asking local Councils to work to help keep Ontario’s grain farmers competitive so we can continue sustainably producing high-quality, nutritious foods while creating a greener environment.

**Here’s how you can play a role:**

As a councillor for the next municipal government for Ontario, I am asking you to commit to the following:

* *Talk to grain farmers* - Invite farmers to the table when considering policy that impacts farms, including land use and environmental objectives
* *Make policy and laws that enable outcomes* – farm businesses are innovative and adaptable. We need municipal leaders to focus on creating an enabling business environment and consider how the rules and regulations they pass impact farm competitiveness.
* *Think regionally:* Ontario farmers compete with farmers in other countries. We need municipal leaders who understand our that our farm businesses need a level playing field so we can compete internationally.

I appreciate your interest in grain farming. To learn more about Grain Farming in Ontario, please visit [www.gfo.ca](http://www.gfo.ca) and [www.grainforgood.com](http://www.grainforgood.com).

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you on these issues.

Sincerely,

[Sign off]

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