

## ATTACHMENT B



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Kent Federation of Agriculture Corporation  
c/o Ridgetown Campus, University of Guelph, 120 Main St. E, Ridgetown, ON, N0P 2C0  
519-674-1500 #63595 [kfa@uoguelph.ca](mailto:kfa@uoguelph.ca) [www.kentfederation.ca](http://www.kentfederation.ca)

### **Kent Federation of Agriculture Opposes Backyard Chickens in Chatham-Kent**

March 28, 2023

Mayor Caniff and Members of Chatham-Kent Council,

The Kent Federation of Agriculture represents well over 1,800 primary producers and agri-business members in Chatham-Kent. Our primary focus is to ensure a strong and sustainable agricultural and rural sector in the Chatham-Kent area.

The Kent Federation of Agriculture supports those sectors most impacted by this decision, namely the egg farmers and chicken farmers of Ontario in opposing any by-law that would allow backyard chickens in urban Chatham Kent.

Avian Influenza (AI) poses a very real risk to our food supply system. It has been proven that contamination of commercial flocks originates in urban areas. When AI is detected in a commercial flock, that flock must be euthanized, the facilities thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and a withdrawal period must be observed. The result is crippling to that farmer - the financial, mental and emotional stress that accompanies this situation can be devastating.

AI has already been found – in fact, the first detection in Ontario in 2023 was in a backyard flock located right here in Chatham-Kent. Commercial farmers need the help from the council to control this outbreak and help protect the food supply for all Ontarians.

We applaud the general public's interest in agriculture. However, the risks posed by backyard flocks are very real - this is simply not the time for this request to go forward.

If you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me or the Egg Farmers of Ontario Board Director Scott Helps (519-464-2744 or [shelps@ymail.com](mailto:shelps@ymail.com)).

Brad Snobelen, President

Kent Federation of Agriculture