

Roy'L Acres Farm

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April 4, 2019

Dear Warden Hicks and Grey County Council,

We are writing to you in regards of the proposal to change the Farm Property Tax Rate.

We understand that this matter will be addressed and voted on at Thursday April 11 Council meeting.

We support the Grey County Federation of Agriculture in its endeavor to adjust the tax rate for farms.

As farmers ourselves we are proud to belong to the farming community of 2,304 active production farms in Grey County (stats Canada 2017 Census).

As our land values increase we bear a larger portion of the tax burden without the benefit of more services or the County having to raise the tax rate for other ratepayers. This is an unfair advantage as the appreciation in the worth of our land will never be cause for a greater yield. The succession of farm properties to family members also means that value will never be realized.

It appears that other Counties in Ontario that have been faced with this issue such as Duffrin, Lambton, Caledon, and Oxford to name a few have demonstrated to their farming communities the support that farmers need to continue to provide a life-sustaining service which is feeding people.

To quote a former Warden of Grey County Alan Barfoot, "Agriculture has deep roots in Grey County...Grey County is proud of our farmers and wishes continued success for all those who have chosen this vital occupation."

Most farmers are not wealthy, we work hard to make a living that is sustainable, and our land is our livelihood. Please consider these truths as you deliberate your decision as your vote will have a profound impact on the farmers of Grey County.

Sincerely,

Roy Love and Virginia Stewart Love