

July 3, 2025

Sent via email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
1 Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

**RE: Correspondence from the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture  
regarding Rejection of City of Barrie Boundary Proposal**

Please be advised that at its Regular meeting on July 2, 2025, Council of the Township of Springwater passed the following resolution:

That Correspondence from the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture dated June 19, 2025 regarding Rejection of City of Barrie Boundary Proposal, be received for information; and,

That the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture correspondence be endorsed by Council and forwarded to Priemer Ford, Minister Flack, Township of Oro-Medonte, City of Barrie, the County of Simcoe and the Provincial Land Facilitator.

The correspondence from the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture is enclosed. Your consideration on this matter is respectfully requested.

Yours Truly,



Jennifer Marshall, AMP  
Clerk

Encl.

cc: Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,  
Jeffery Schelling, Provincial Land Facilitator,  
Jonathan Magill, Simcoe County Clerk, Director of Statutory Services and Archives,



[www.springwater.ca](http://www.springwater.ca)

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Minesing, Ontario  
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Wendy Cooke, City Clerk/Director of Legislative and Court Services, City of Barrie,  
Yvonne Aubichon, Clerk, Township of Oro-Medonte



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June 19, 2025

Dear Mayor Coughlin and Members of Council,


The Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture strongly supports the Springwater Agricultural Advisory Committee in their rejection of the City of Barrie's annexation proposal.

We understand the need for land to accommodate development, but it must be a balance. Growth cannot come at the expense of losing productive farmland that is essential for food security, environmental sustainability, and the rural economy.

This proposed annexation threatens to convert acres upon acres of highly productive farmland and natural areas into "employment lands," covering commercial, and industrial uses. This is prime agricultural land that should remain in food production—not be repurposed for warehouses, subdivisions, and sprawl. The permanent loss of this land would be a direct blow to Ontario's food security, environmental sustainability, and rural economy.

Before any discussion of annexation is even considered, the City of Barrie must first demonstrate that it has fully and efficiently utilized the lands already available within its existing settlement boundary. Expanding outward into neighbouring municipalities while underutilized land remains within the city is unjustifiable and inconsistent with good planning principles.

We are aware that despite our opposition, the Province of Ontario may choose to intervene in support of Barrie's proposal. This potential override of local decision-making is deeply



concerning. Local councils are best positioned to understand and protect their communities' long-term interests. Decisions about land use must reflect local priorities—not just provincial growth mandates.

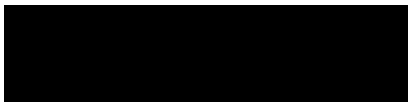
Ontario is already losing over 300 acres of farmland every day. If municipalities like yours are not empowered to stop this trend, the consequences will be irreversible.

We urge this council to:

- Publicly reject the City of Barrie's annexation proposal;
- Call on the Province to respect local planning decisions and the agricultural value of the land in question, and to prioritize intensification, redevelopment, and the use of existing serviced lands within current municipal boundaries before supporting any expansion into productive farmland;
- Demand a transparent and accountable provincial review process should intervention be considered.

The farming community is watching closely, and we are ready to support the efforts to ensure Simcoe County's farmland is protected—for today, and for future generations.

Warm Regards,



Dave Ritchie  
SCFA president

