



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Qualtrough,

Especially in crisis times such as pandemics, food security is critical to the well being of the country's citizens and economy. Food supply and security in Canada is very closely connected with the U.S. economy in relation to the greenhouse industry and agriculture across Canada. We need to act with great care and deliberation. We must reduce Canadian vulnerability to foreign supplies and keep local jobs and economic activity as an essential service.

Canada must not cripple our greenhouse, horticulture, and processing industries by introducing restrictions on its access to essential temporary foreign workers. Exclusion of this experienced labour will devastate Canada's ability to provide for its food security. Our industry has regular workers scheduled to return to Canada in the immediate coming days and weeks and need certainty. The Canadian government and agricultural industry must immediately coordinate and clarify the implications to our food security resulting from your recent announcements.

The industry is already exploring a protocol of controlled travel and isolation so that we can ensure the safety of Canadians and our food supply.

Please do not hesitate to let myself or others know if there is anything we can do to ensure this vital part of our food industry continues to produce quality, nutritious food.

I look forward to working with you and others in these challenging and most urgent times.

Sincerely,

Dave Epp, MP
Chatham-Kent-Leamington

CC:

Christia Freeland, MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Francois- Philippe Champagne, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Leona Alleslev, MP, Deputy Leader, Foreign Affairs Shadow Minister
Gerard Deltell, MP, Shadow Minister, Intergovernmental Affairs
Colin Carrie, MP, Shadow Minister Canada/US Relations
Marie-Claude Bibeau, MP, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food
John Barlow, MP, Agriculture and Agri-food Shadow Minister
Patty Hajdu, MP, Minister of Health
Matt Jeneroux, MP, Health Shadow Minister
Dan Albas, MP, Shadow Minister, Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion
Alison Robertson, Executive Director, Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association
Cathy Lennon, General Manager, Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Sue Williams, General Manager, F.A.R.M.S.

