Greetings!

I hope this note finds you well in these challenging times.

As we wait for the vaccine to be distributed throughout the world, the COVID crisis continues to claim lives and livelihoods.

Like many families and business across Ontario, the local grape and wine industry has been greatly impacted. Yet there is a proactive measure the Ontario government can take this spring to support local farm families and save rural jobs. That’s why I am writing today.

For a while now, I have been hearing about the struggles of Ontario’s craft wineries – farm-family businesses that do great work and contribute to communities across the province. When I heard about some of the unfair taxes they’re forced to pay, I must admit I was shocked.

A 6.1% tax to the LCBO for wines that are sold on-site at wineries themselves…

Policies that treat local wines like international imports…

Other levies and charges that, combined, double the cost to consumers of each bottle of Ontario VQA bottle sold.

These unfair taxes put our local wineries at a huge disadvantage compared to producers elsewhere. They simply don’t make sense.

I am not an activist. I am a regular Ontario citizen. I care about my neighbours and my community. I want to see our province recover from the situation we’re in today as quickly as possible.

Scrapping unfair taxes for local, craft wineries is an inexpensive and logical way for the province to support struggling producers, protect an entire industry, save jobs, and support rural communities.

Please push Premier Ford and Minister Bethlenfalvy to make these common-sense changes part of this spring’s provincial budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(Your name and address)