

From: [sherri honey](#)
To: [Clerks](#)
Subject: re:long-standing ag use exemption
Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 9:12:13 AM

Dear Regional Clerk,
Can you please forward this email on to all council members.
Kind regards,
Sherri

Dear Regional Council Members,

I have recently been informed that you will be meeting with the Niagara Regional DC Task Force regarding the long-standing agricultural use exemption from Regional Development Charges be removed from the next renewal of the by-law taking effect Aug 2022.

My partner and I have recently taken over my family farm, a farm that has been my family for 5 generations. This, at one time, was a very common thing, however as you know, with the changing times, it has been lost. It was a complex decision for us to do this. Farms and farming is or can be a very low paying, tireless, thankless business. But it is now more than ever a very lucrative and essential business to be in. We have both kept our full time jobs just to help alleviate costs. Perhaps you aren't aware but spray and fertilizers have more than doubled this year compared to last year, and rising fuel charges are also going to impact the budget greatly for the abundance of tractor work it takes to run a farm business. Our intentions is to eventually let go of our jobs and be able to raise our family on the farm income alone. With hopes of new out buildings development in the future, losing this exemption will make it impossible for us to accomplish this. Not only that, but you will severely deter any future generation from getting into the farming industry/ business. I've mentioned what a thankless job farming is, however, it is with the same token incredibly gratifying and a lifestyle. My partner was raised in the city- I was raised on a farm. Complete opposite sides of the track. As he is learning this lifestyle, it is a huge difference from city living. If any of you reading this email have lived on a farm, I trust you will understand what I mean. But if any of you reading this email have never lived on a farm, it will naturally be difficult for you to fully understand. I am very passionate about nature and farming and without it our region will sorely lose. I implore you to strongly consider NOT removing this exemption so that we may thrive and continue to lovingly support our community the best way a farmer knows how. Growing, sharing, providing and helping our neighbours and our community.

Sincerely,
Sherri-Lin Honey