



**WELLINGTON FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE**

**Barclay Nap**

President  
4402 Concession 11, Moffat, ON  
L0P 1J0  
519-223-1287  
napbarclay@gmail.com

[www.wfofa.on.ca](http://www.wfofa.on.ca)

**Katherine Noble**

Administrator  
131 Maitland St, Harriston ON  
N0G 1Z0  
519-323-7294  
[wellington-fed-ag@outlook.com](mailto:wellington-fed-ag@outlook.com)

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Karren Wallace

Clerk

Township Wellington North

Email: [kwallace@wellington-north.com](mailto:kwallace@wellington-north.com)

Cc: Jessica Rahim - - [jessicara@wellington.ca](mailto:jessicara@wellington.ca), Deborah Turchet - - [debt@wellington.ca](mailto:debt@wellington.ca)

**Re: Zoning By-Law – ZBA 17/24 - Ballinger**

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Wellington County is the hub of agricultural innovation, research, and leadership in the province. Protecting and preserving Ontario's agricultural land for the purpose of growing, harvesting, and producing food is the Wellington Federation of Agriculture's (WFA) priority. The WFA is the largest farm organization within the County of Wellington, with over 1500 members, and works in unison with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA).

The WFA is appreciative of its ability to comment on ZBA 17/24, 8384 Line 4 Arthur to sever a 1.6 ha surplus farm dwelling with sheds and existing dwelling from an overall parcel of 40.8 ha.

The WFA is in support of rezoning this land to Site Specific Agricultural (A-2) to prevent future residential development as this will help in preserving farmland. However, we would like to note that we would recommend for future that the Wellington County Land Division Committee consider limiting the size of surplus farm dwelling severances to the absolute minimum size necessary, 1 ha (2.47 acres), to allow necessary services.

Ontario loses 319 acres of farmland daily, so the discussion by the WFA board and ultimately providing a position around severances has been a difficult one as every acre truly counts when trying to minimize the impacts of farmland loss. We understand that the re-zoning is now necessary as the severance is completed but this application sets a precedent for future applications and comments from the Municipality on severances should be highly considered.

Recent global events have highlighted the importance of a domestic, reliable food system and security. Wellington County has some of the most fertile, productive land in Ontario, which is vital to ensuring sufficient land resources for food production, processing, and related agri-business.

Respectfully on behalf of the Board of Directors

Barclay Nap, WFA President

On behalf of the Wellington Federation of Agriculture Board of Directors

cc.WFA Board Members