



Office of the Minister  
77 Grenville Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M7A1B3  
Tel: (416) 326-3074  
Fax: (416) 326-3083

Bureau de la ministre  
77, rue Grenville, 11<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1B3  
Tél.: (416) 326-3074  
Télééc.: (416) 326-3083

JAN 06 2011

Mr. Dan Jones  
President  
AgriEnergy Producers' Association of Ontario  
900-275 Slater Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5H9

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for writing to me in follow up to our meeting on November 22nd.

I appreciate your association's recommendations regarding anaerobic digestion and the development of the biogas sector in Ontario. Its development is indeed an important opportunity under the *Green Energy Act, 2009*. I am pleased to expand on the various initiatives in which my ministry is involved.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) works with other ministries on renewable energy issues, including biogas. I can assure you we will continue to support the multiple benefits of anaerobic digestion to our colleagues at other ministries.

We are also helping to promote awareness, education and other opportunities related to biogas. Ministry staff supported the development of a Biogas Systems Operators training course. Four sessions have been held and another one is being offered by Ridgetown College in Cambridge, Ontario, on February 8-10, 2011. We are also promoting the biogas sector through our participation in trade shows such as the Canada Outdoor Farm Show, Growing the Margins, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and the International Plowing Match.

.../2

Mr. Jones

Page 2

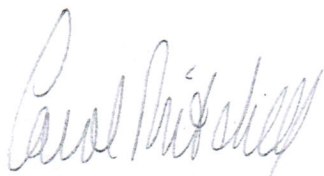
The Ontario government is pleased to support investment in renewable energy production through such programs as my ministry's \$11.2-million Ontario Biogas Systems Financial Assistance Program. We were also pleased to provide funding to your association and to support the grid connection study as well. My ministry remains committed to working with your association and with other stakeholders to support renewable energy production.

In addition, through Growing Forward, farmers are eligible to receive cost-share funding under the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan program to help implement environmental improvements on their farms. Anaerobic digestion for manure treatment is eligible for up to \$30,000 to support various design and development costs.

I have made note of your suggestion for more incentive-based programming. As you are already aware, Ontario Power Authority's Feed-In-Tariff program is a key example of how our government is offering incentives to build a green energy future for Ontario. I want to assure you of OMAFRA's commitment to continue exploring opportunities to partner with other ministries and funding groups to promote innovation and research in this area.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carol Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Carol Mitchell  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs