



TORONTO FARMERS ASSOCIATION

Ontario Food Terminal
165 The Queensway, Suite 205
Toronto ON M8Y 1H8
T 416 2597827 F 416 259 8521

December 17, 2021

Planning and Housing Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councilors:

I'm writing to you as President of the Toronto Farmers' Association, a non-profit organization that represents the local growers who operate at the Farmers' Market of the Ontario Food Terminal. I'm worried that a municipal conversion request made by the owners of 125 The Queensway could harm the long-term survival of the employment lands at the Food Terminal and the lands that surround it. I respectfully ask that you reject this proposed conversion request.

The Ontario Food Terminal was designated provincially significant employment lands for good reason. The Terminal is not only a major direct employer, with thousands of people (buyers and wholesalers) working at the Terminal every day, but it's also important to countless growers throughout the province who sell locally grown fruits and vegetables either at the Farmers' Market or to the wholesalers.

Through the Food Terminal, the produce sold at the Farmers' Market makes its way to independent grocers, restaurants and caterers. The Food Terminal is responsible for supporting small businesses throughout Toronto. It allows them to compete against the chain grocers.

In turn, these small businesses help ensure that the people of Toronto have access to a wide variety of fresh, locally grown produce, often within walking distance of their homes.

The problem with the proposed development at 125 The Queensway is that, because this property is located at the gates to the Food Terminal, it would make the Food Terminal subject to complaints from residential neighbours about noise, traffic, etc. Frankly, it's just not an appropriate place to build a major development.

Toronto needs more housing, for sure, but Toronto also needs to ensure that there are continued jobs for the people who live in the city. I encourage you to make the right decision. Please let me know if you would like any additional information.

Yours truly,


John Den Boer
President, Toronto Farmers Association

cc: Councilor Mark Grimes