



August 6, 2014

Mr. James Rajotte
Chair of the Committee
House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. James Rajotte:

Food and Beverage Ontario (formerly the Alliance of Ontario Food Processors), the voice of Ontario's food and beverage industry, is pleased to provide comment to your consultation process in preparation for next year's budget. For the purposes of this letter, we are limiting our comments to the allocation of resources for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) Safe Food for Canadians Act "compliance promotion" and multi-year support of the "Safe Food for Canada: The Learning Partnership".

Food and Beverage Ontario has recently prepared a submission in response to the CFIA's "A New Regulatory Framework for Federal Food Inspection: Overview of Proposed Regulations". In this paper, we emphasize the importance of effectively and transparently communicating with food and beverage processors across Ontario in preparation for upcoming changes to the federal food safety regulatory framework. Processor businesses, whether currently federally registered or not, will require time to clearly understand and successfully comply with new regulations.

Dedicating funds from the 2015 federal budget will ensure that the CFIA and stakeholder organizations such as Food and Beverage Ontario are prepared to communicate and promote new regulations. As you know, these regulations will impose mandatory licensing, preventative control plans, record keeping and inspection activities on all businesses importing or preparing food and beverage (other than alcohol and food additives) for export or inter-provincial trade, beginning as early as next year.

Food and Beverage Ontario also strongly recommends the allocation of resources to support "Safe Food Canada: The Learning Partnership". This initiative developed vis-à-vis an industry-government-academia partnership will create a process for certifying programs and training related to food safety based on a competency framework. The partnership will also lend support

to developing a career path for food safety professionals by standardizing and modernizing the training of inspectors and food safety professionals – individuals who are critical to regulatory compliance and industry food safety success.

The food and beverage processing industry is a key driver to Canada’s economy and large provider of jobs. In Ontario, the industry contributes \$39 billion to the provincial economy annually and employs over 125,000 people. Safe, high quality food is a hallmark of food and beverage processors across the country. Comprehensive compliance promotion and multi-year support for Safe Food Canada will ease the transition to a new regulatory framework and ensure our global reputation as food safety leaders is protected.

Sincerely,



Norm Beal
President



Steve Peters
Executive Director