

May 26, 2025

The Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry The Senate of Canada Ottawa ON K1A 0A4

At its regular meeting on May 22, 2025, Dufferin County Council passed the following resolution:

THAT the resolution from the Township of Amaranth, dated April 16, 2025, regarding the Critical Ground Report and implementing the recommendations, be supported.

Thank you,

Michelle Dunne

Michelle Dunne Clerk

Cc Prime Minister Mark Carney Premier Doug Ford MPP Honourable Sylvia Jones MP Honourable Kyle Seeback Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness Minister of Rural Affairs Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change Federal Minister of Agriculture, Agri-food and Rural Economic Development AMO FCM Dufferin Federation of Agriculture Ontario Federation of Agriculture Dufferin Municipalities

Attachment: Township of Amaranth Resolution

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April 16, 2025

The Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry The Senate of Canada Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4

Re: Critical Ground: Why Soil is Essential to Canada's Economic, Environmental, Human and Social Health

Following a presentation and discussion from The Honourable Robert Black at the regular meeting of Council held on April 16, 2025, the Township of Amaranth Council passed the following motion:

Resolution #: 3 Moved by: G. Little Seconded by: A. Stirk

Whereas the Township of Amaranth 2023 Strategic Plan included a vision statement "To grow a strong, vibrant rural and agricultural community" and a goal to "Protect our agricultural land and promote the farming economy"

And Whereas the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry published a report in 2024 titled "Critical Ground: Why Soil is Essential to Canada's Economic, Environmental, Human and Social Health" that contained twenty five (25) recommendations in total for the federal government, two of which also provided recommended actions for provincial and territorial governments.

And Whereas, Recommendation 7 of Critical Ground stated that "The Government of Canada encourage provinces, territories, and municipalities to develop measures—as a form of land use planning—that best preserve and protect agricultural land in their jurisdictions."

Therefore be it resolved that the Township of Amaranth fully support all of the Recommendations included within Critical Ground and will consider how to implement the Recommendations contained within Critical Ground when completing a review of the Township of Amaranth Official Plan.

And further that the Township of Amaranth urge the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario to implement all the recommendations contained within Critical Ground and commit to recognizing a sense of urgency and act accordingly in order to protect and conserve soil as per Recommendation 25. And further that this motion be circulated to the following parties:

- All local municipalities within the County of Dufferin
- MPP Hon. Sylvia Jones
- Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Hon. Trevor Jones, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
- Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs
- MP Hon. Kyle Seeback
- Federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Rural Economic Development
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Dufferin Federation of Agriculture
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
- Premier of Ontario
- Prime Minister of Canada

CARRIED

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require any further information on this matter.

Yours truly,

Nicole Martin, Dipl. M.A. CAO/Clerk