



January 25, 2024

Grape Growers of Ontario
Attn: Sarah Marshall
1634 S Service Rd,
St. Catharines, ON L2R 6P9

RE: Commitment of Funding for the Piped Irrigation System Environmental Assessment

As the Town of Lincoln is considered an Agricultural Centre of Excellence, we are aware that agriculture plays a crucial role in Niagara's economy and food security and contributes over \$1.4 billion to the Regional GDP. Insufficient water supply access has negatively impacted product yield for our growers, specifically with tender fruit which requires a specific amount of water to grow to a size that is deemed salable by OMAFRA; however, inconsistent water access results in reduced yields of crops unable to meet that threshold. Over the past five plus years, engineers have identified a potential irrigation solution; however, additional funding is required to move forward with the Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Niagara Region has applied to OMAFRA and the Canadian Infrastructure Bank for funding to support the required Environmental Assessment for the solution for a piped irrigation system for Beamsville, Jordan/Vineland, St. Catharine's and other surrounding Niagara areas.

To support this important project, The Town of Lincoln is committed to supporting this important project by providing \$50,000 in both 2024 and 2025 for a total contribution of \$100,000.

The Town is happy to see this project moving forward and the collaboration across all levels of government, our partner Local Area Municipalities and the grower organizations.

Sincerely,

Michael Kirkopoulos,
Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Lincoln

CC.

E. Acs, Manager of Community Planning, Niagara Region
E. Weins, Chair, Irrigation Committee of the Whole, Niagara Region
Sandra Easton, Mayor, Town of Lincoln