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AGRIBUSINESS PROTECTION CALLED FOR AT PRE-BUDGET SESSION



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PETER LANGILLE
7:38 AM



Photo: Windsor Chamber President Matt Marchand (by AM800's Peter Langille)



The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce was among several organizations speaking to the federal government's pre-budget consultation.

The event took place in a downtown Windsor hotel with members of the Standing Committee on Finance.

Chamber President Matt Marchand says they are calling for a revision of the federal tax code, which he argues is far too complicated. He also made a request for a Canadian version of American legislation that protects vendors of perishable agricultural items.

Marchand says what they're proposing would protect farmers selling into the US where their client goes bankrupt:

"Which basically allows our sellers of agriculture products into the US to get paid quickly in the event of a bankruptcy, it's a huge issue here in the Windsor-Essex region," says Marchand.

According to Marchand, the current situation makes it too costly to be protected.

"If you're a small business and you sold \$25,000 or \$50,000 worth of product, tomatoes or otherwise, you now have to put up \$50,000 or \$100,000 and have that money tied up for weeks and weeks depending on how long it goes and that's too much for small business," says Marchand.

Marchand says it's a concern that's costing the agriculture industry tens of millions of dollars each year – and a significant part of that is from this region.

Keywords:

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