

December 18, 2012

Hon. Gerry Ritz  
Minister of Agriculture  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

We are writing to you today regarding the federal government's proposed changes to food packaging regulations as per the 2012 budget papers.

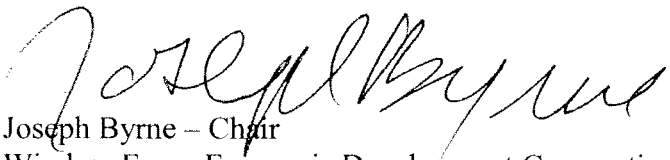
Before going further, we recognize that there are broader agreements between our countries such as the Beyond the Border and the RCC plan(s) to help harmonize and ease access and trade with the U.S. Our organizations appreciate the government's effort to help improve trade and commerce between our two countries. We note the recent report issued on by the US and Canadian governments on those matters last week and applaud your continued efforts in that regard.

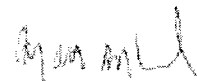
However, with respect to food packaging regulations there appears to be a lack of clarity. As you may know, Windsor-Essex has food packaging operations that are important contributors to our local economy.

They have expressed some concerns to us and we would like to extend the invitation for you and/or your officials to meet with our stakeholders in the near future to discuss the fullness of this issue and how we can work collaboratively going forward.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph Byrne – Chair  
Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation

  
Matt Marchand – President and CEO  
Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce

cc.

Tom Bain, Warden, County of Essex  
Jeff Watson, MP, Essex  
Mayor Gary McNamara, Town of Tecumseh