



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association

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April 25, 2018

MPP Vic Fideli, (Nipissing)
Room 381, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario,
M7A 1A8

RE: Letter of Support – Ontario Forestry Revitalization Act (14 Storey Wood Frame Buildings), 2018

Dear Vic,

On behalf of the Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA), we are pleased to support the proposed Bill amending the *Building Code Act, 1992* to provide that the Ontario Building Code shall not prohibit a building that is 14 storeys or less in building height from being of wood frame construction.

OHBA has been a strong supporter of building science innovation and adoption of advanced construction technology. OHBA previously supported amendments to the Ontario Building Code to allow 6-storey wood framed buildings and have promoted tall wood and provided industry education in the construction of tall wood buildings.

The continued use of wood within the construction industry will help address climate change by storing carbon in buildings and by offsetting emissions associated with other construction materials. OHBA recognizes and supports these changes required within our industry to improve the energy efficiency level of buildings and support government objectives to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Canadian Wood Council notes they are currently tracking 125 tall wood projects in Ontario. There are 42 tall wood projects that have been completed and 83 tall wood projects are currently under construction or in planning stages. Changes to the Ontario Building Code to allow for tall wood framed buildings up to 6 stories, has generated a lot of additional activity on 4 and 5 storey wood buildings. Innovation in the construction industry to utilize wood in tall buildings will support Ontario's forestry industry. This is especially important today due to political uncertainties and trade disputes with the United States.

Tall wood construction is not unique to Ontario. In fact, while Ontario should be leading the world in tall wood construction innovation, many other jurisdictions in North America, Europe and Asia are ahead of us. For example, Folkhem has proposed four 20-storey apartment towers in Stockholm to be constructed entirely in Swedish pine. Tall wood construction is utilized safely with advances in technology occurring in many countries and it is time Ontario not only catch up to the rest of the world, but lead the world.

This is the type of innovation that will support more housing choice and more housing supply for home believers across Ontario. Thank you and we look forward to discussing any additional requirements supporting Tall Wood Buildings.

Sincerely,

Joe Vaccaro
CEO, Ontario Home Builders' Association