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38th Parliament

**JOHN YAKABUSKI, M.P.P. - RENFREW-NIPISSING-PEMBROKE**

## Members Statement – June 7, 05

Mr. Speaker:

If I've said it once, I've said it a thousand times: the McGuinty Liberals have turned their backs on rural Ontario! Time and time again, we have seen legislation and over regulation encroach upon the rural way of life. It has hurt our local economy and industry. Even rural health and education always comes as a last priority to a government more concerned with its urban agenda. Made in Toronto policies do not work in rural Ontario, and as we continue to see, rural livelihoods are being damaged by a government that clearly couldn't care less.

I have received a report from the Renfrew County Coordinating Committee for Rural Action, a group comprised of various organizations that represent rural interests. This committee has prepared an insightful report entitled "the Rural Ontario Challenge" which I have mailed to all members of this legislature. It highlights many of the problems in rural Ontario and expresses the extreme frustration of rural Ontarian's, that their concerns have been forgotten and their problems, ignored. They discuss in their report specific items that span everything from environmental issues, to a lack of support for our farmers, to unfair and excessive taxation. Ultimately, they stress that their wealth, their livelihood, and the values of rural Ontario are under attack, and this Mr. Speaker is wrong!

I would ask all Members of this House to please review the "Rural Ontario Challenge" and respond to the committee with their comments. Something must be done immediately to rectify the wrongs of this government and its attitude towards rural issues. I ask all Members of this House today to give this report their full attention.