



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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BILL C-46 TO ENSURE A STRONG FUTURE IN BARLEY MARKETING

April 7, 2008 - Airdrie, AB: Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) members have been in Ottawa this past week urging opposition members to support Bill C-46 an act to remove barley from the Canadian Wheat Board Act . The passing of this bill would finally free Western barley growers from the Wheat Board monopoly, and allow them the opportunity to choose how they market their grain.

"Every sector of the barley industry is onside" said Nielson, "all we are asking is that this legislation be allowed to move forward. Stalling and procedural delays are not in anyone's interest. Cooperation by all parties would be positive for all sides."

"Clearly producers, barley industry partners, three provincial provinces and our federal government have spoken" says Jeff Nielsen, President of WBGA. "The CWB has refused to respect even its own producer surveys that have shown the desire for choice by promoting half measures such as *CashPlus*, which has created more confusion and loss of respect of the CWB. Our industry partners have had their international customers wish to deal directly with them, making sure the barley they get is of the quality and quantity they desire. This ensures the producer more timely pricing and contractual abilities. For a short time last summer our grain trade showed what could happen with feed barley on the idea of an open market. Our malting industry wishes to have the same ability".

This week sees the chance of a new beginning with the CWB as the new President and CEO, Ian White, takes office, along with Larry Hill elected as new Chair of the CWB Board of Directors. Mr. White's credentials bring a very strong CEO to the CWB; one that has great respect coming from his past experiences in the Canadian grain trade. His strong commitment to upholding the standards set forth by sound Canadian corporate governance should lead the CWB board of directors in fulfilling their corporate duties and responsibilities.

WBGA will be asking for a meeting with Mr. White to discuss the road to ensuring a smooth transition to barley marketing freedom. WBGA also calls upon the Directors of the CWB, to once again respect producers who have clearly spoken for choice and to allow the Canadian barley sector to grow and prosper rather than to remain stagnate or worse, failing as it is today.

"To continue refusing to listen to western Canadian barley producers, the CWB itself has created the uncertainty it tries to claim others have. In today's volatile markets, the CWB cannot react fast enough to provide value back to barley growers. Clear, open pricing signals and price transparency is needed. Nothing to date from the CWB has offered barley producers that. Our grain trade and Canadian Malting Industry have asked for the same. Farmers see contracting directly with these entities no different then when farmers contract and price their canola, pulses, flax or feed grains" concludes Nielsen.

WBGA members call upon all government members to make Bill C-46 a priority, and move Bill C-46 along quickly for the sake of the barley industry.

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