



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

A strong voice for a vibrant, market responsive barley industry in western Canada

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For immediate Release

Government amendments to CWB licensing regulations end monopoly

May 7, 2007, Airdrie, AB: The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) has submitted a statement on the proposed regulatory changes to the CWB Act, supporting the changes and encouraging that there is no delay to the August 1, opening of barley to a truly free market. "In reviewing the proposed changes it is clear that the only change proposed by the Minister of Agriculture to the CWB regulations is the removal of barley from the licensing section of the CWB Act" states Jeff Nielsen, president of the WBGA.

The marketing provision for barley remains unchanged. This means that producers that choose to sell their barley through the CWB, use pooling and the government securitized pricing, will have that right as stated in the CWB Act. WBGA has long stated and maintained that licensing is the key to the CWB control of wheat and barley; it is only by denying these licences that the CWB forces farmers to sell to the board.

Licences do not add value to grain. "The CWB board of directors now claims they cannot add any value to barley producers, so they (the CWB) are not going to market barley. Clearly these licences do not add value. The CWB marketing has not changed. "If the CWB cannot add value to barley now then they were not adding value before" continues Nielsen.

It was shown in the two "Barley Tour" meetings held so far that the barley producers are seeing great opportunities starting August 1. "With commodity experts speaking and malting representatives in attendance, farmers heard and received valuable marketing information on barley that means growth and increased value back to the farm gate in the new crop year. WBGA plans to continue the series of barley marketing meetings across Western Canada once seeding is completed. Watch for details at www.wbga.org" concludes Nielsen.

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