



## **WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

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## **WBGA APPLAUDS CWB PRODUCER SURVEY SHOWING THE CALL FOR THE END OF THE MONOPOLY ON BARLEY**

**June 6, 2008 – Airdrie, AB:** “Prairie barley producers’ calls for the end of the monopoly on barley were reinforced by the Canadian Wheat Board’s own producer survey” says an elated Jeff Nielsen, president of the Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA). “Nearly 70% of CWB permit book holders who took this survey responded they want barley marketing freedom, this is backed by the 62% of all barley producers who voted in a plebiscite last year who also stated they want choice. The time is now for the board of directors of the CWB and the government of Canada, to work together, and move fast to ensure producers have the right to market their barley to who ever they choose come August 1”.

“Bill C-46, which will make the necessary amendments to the CWB Act, needs to speed through the Standing Committee on Agriculture and be brought back to Parliament as soon as possible” states Doug McBain, past president - WBGA. “Time is clearly of essence here, this can be done, and all opposition parties must now recognize that producers have spoken loud and clear. We need to move forward to ensure a strong future for barley”.

In early April, representatives of the barley value chain were in Ottawa speaking to Opposition Members on the need to remove barley from the CWB. Once thought as a regional issue, this group proved to these honourable members that the economic benefits of a strong barley industry stretches across Canada. Existing and new opportunities with barley will grow and add value within all of Canada in areas such as malt, food fractionation and biofuels. Yet unless barley producers and end users can work closer together with out the monopoly middle man, this industry will remain stagnant.

“WBGA calls upon all the honourable members of Parliament and the Senate to pass Bill C-46. Producers have made their decision on what is best for their business, its time for everyone to respect and support that. WBGA members and barley farmers’ prairie wide now expect speedy passage of Bill C-46 and to know that August 1 of this year will truly be barley freedom day” concludes Nielsen.

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