



## **WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

*A strong voice for a vibrant market-responsive barley industry in Western Canada*

Agriculture Centre – 97 East Lake Ramp NE

Airdrie, AB T4A 0C3

Phone: (403) 912-3998

[www.wbga.org](http://www.wbga.org) Email: [wbga@wbga.org](mailto:wbga@wbga.org)

Open letter to all Members of Parliament and Senators

Western Canadian barley farmers are calling for action on marketing choice.

Barley farmers in western Canada are asking the members of all the political parties to respect their wishes and allow the government to move forward with two essential Bills currently before them: Bill C-46 and Bill C-57.

Bill C-46 will allow barley producers the ability to market their own barley to whomever they choose. This echoes the call for marketing choice from the Canadian Wheat Boards spring 2008 producer survey. These results also mirror last year's barley plebiscite where 62% of producers voted for marketing choice. For those who continue to suggest the plebiscite's question was misleading or hard to understand has been an insult to the intelligence of producers who own and manage substantial farm business operations.

Bill C-57 will finally define who is an actual producer for Canadian Wheat Board director elections. This will allow only true producers, and not absentee landowners or others, the right to vote in the election of the CWB directors. True producers will then vote for a candidate for the board of directors, building on the strength the CWB board currently has as being farmer-elected.

***Our government remains committed to marketing choice as stated in last fall's Thorne Speech***

***"Our government will recognize the views of farmers, as expressed in the recent plebiscite on barley, by enacting marketing choice".***

The Canadian Wheat Board must also respect barley farmer's wishes. In the ten years of producer surveys the CWB's own results barley producers have never shown more than 36% support for the monopoly.

It is time for all Members of Parliament to respect prairie barley producers' wishes. This is not a regional issue. Our Canadian malting and brewing industry depends on top quality Canadian barley. Without it, and without the ability to contract directly with producers, we will continue to struggle to keep the industry we now have alive.

Maltsters have made it quite clear, they are expanding and growing their business, yet that growth will be anywhere but in Canada.

The time is now to move forward and allow prairie barley producers the same rights as those in all other areas of Canada outside of the CWB-designated area. Our ability to grow "value added" in barley will facilitate more research and development, malt production, food fractionation and perhaps biofuels. This will not happen while producers are shackled to the CWB monopoly.

***Members of Parliament and Senators, please respect the wishes of prairie barley producers.***

**GIVE US BARLEY MARKETING FREEDOM NOW!**