



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION
**A strong voice for a vibrant, market responsive barley industry in western
Canada**

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For Immediate Release

Barley Growers Directors “Endorse” efforts to look at all options for Producer Payment Security

July 24, 2008 - Airdrie, AB: The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) endorses the efforts of organizations representing Western Canadian farmers, processor’s, and exporters who have proposed working together to look at options for producer payment protection in light of proposed changes to the *Canada Grain Act*.

In response to the press release of July 21st from the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), the WBGA board of directors endorsed a policy to collaborate where appropriate with these organizations in their evaluation of options. Identified as a possible option in the APAS press release were “*clearinghouse models*”. Considerable effort has already been expended by the WBGA with financial and technical support from the Private Sector Risk Management Partnerships (PSRMP) program in the evaluation of a clearinghouse option for producer security. The evaluation of the clearinghouse option, and the related information generated by the WBGA, will be available to the organizations, if requested. The WBGA believes that a clearinghouse option has considerable merit. Market research demonstrated 70 % of farmers supported clearing and would clear a portion of their spot and forward sales. However, the WBGA recognizes that there may be other options that are complementary and together offer the industry a comprehensive set of tools.

“The objective is to create tools for contractual and settlement security that the industry can endorse and get behind while offering the broadest and most efficient industry security”, stated Jeff Nielsen, president of the WBGA.

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