



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Agriculture Centre – 97 East Lake Ramp NE
Airdrie, AB T4A 0C3

Phone: (403) 912-3998 www.wbga.org Email: wbga@wbga.org

Open Editorial

The word “democracy” has been used a lot in the debate over the future of the CWB. Groups and individuals supporting the status quo are saying that Wheat Board Minister Gerry Ritz should respect the right of farmers to vote on this issue as a democratic right.

WBGA also believes in democracy, particularly the democratic right of a farmer to choose when they deliver their grain, who they sell their grain to and at what price they sell that grain for. That democratic freedom - to operate a business successfully - should never be taken away from farmers via a vote by other farmers. Canada is a nation built on the principle of freedom for its citizens and holding a vote to decide whether farmers are free or not goes completely counter to those principles.

Minister Ritz has consistently taken this position since his announcement to remove the monopoly of the CWB. The WBGA strongly supports the Minister on his stand and encourages him to continue on the path of freedom for Western Canadian farmers. Minister Ritz has it right; the results of the CWB vote are irrelevant. This is about the democratic rights of farmers and that should never be put to a vote. If the CWB and their supporters want to demonstrate democracy they need to start by respecting basic business principles and property rights.

Brian Otto
President ~ WBGA
& Producer - Warner, AB
Cell: (403) 647-7661