



## WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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### For immediate release

#### CWB DIRECTORS CONTINUE TO WASTE FARMER'S MONEY

**AIRDRIE, AB – October 27, 2011:** The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) strongly opposes the decision by the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) directors to launch another legal action against the Federal Government's legislation to give Western Canadian farmers marketing freedom.

Allen Oberg, chairman of the CWB, announced the intent of the CWB directors to take legal action against the Federal Government, stating "government broke the law when it introduced Bill C-18 on October 18 because it did not first conduct a plebiscite of affected producers, as required by Section 47.1 of the *Canadian Wheat Board Act*."

All legal costs the CWB will incur are paid by farmers participating in the CWB pool accounts. "This is a waste of producer's money. The CWB is squandering valuable time by focusing on launching legal actions and a full blown media attack against the Federal legislation rather than concentrating on developing a business plan to offer a service to producers after August 1, 2012,," maintains Otto.

"Furthermore, it is frustrating that the eight directors who adamantly support the single desk are letting their ideology stand in the way of developing a plan that would enable the CWB to adapt and survive in an open market," says Otto.

However, it appears the CWB directors are alone in their position that the government cannot amend the *CWB Act* without a plebiscite. The NDP and the Liberals have said the government is well within its right to repeal the Act. "Surely the CWB board must see this as a fruitless exercise that will do nothing more than make a political statement that has been made already," comments Otto.

"This legal action creates uncertainty for producers, processors, overseas customers and the grain handling sector at a time when the industry needs clarity to move forward", continues Otto.

The WBGA supports Minister Ritz and Bill C-18 which offers certainty and clarity that the industry needs to conduct business in a commercial and transparent market place next year.

"It is time that the CWB board accepted the reality of an open market by August and stop trying to intentionally disrupt the market place with their actions. Producers are ready, the industry is ready but sadly, the CWB is not." concludes Otto.

Western Barley Growers Association is a strong voice for a vibrant, market responsive barley industry in Western Canada.

For further comment, please contact:

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