



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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For immediate release

WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION PLEASSED BILL C-18 PASSED THIRD READING IN THE HOUSE AND MOVED ON TO SENATE

AIRDRIE, AB – November 29, 2011: The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) is pleased that Bill C-18 which will give farmers in Western Canada back their “Marketing Freedom”, has passed Third Reading in the House of Commons and has now moved on to the Senate for final debate. “It was encouraging to see such a large producer turnout in the House gallery to witness this historic event yesterday” says Brian Otto, president of the WBGA. “These farmers travelled at their own expense to Ottawa to be present for the final vote in the House and to show that there is overwhelming support behind the Conservative Government to remove the monopoly control of the CWB”, continues Otto.

The WBGA has always supported marketing freedom for Western Canadian farmers and now, producers are one step closer to that happening. “Contrary to the negative statements made by the Canadian Wheat Board “group of eight” single desk supporting directors, we know that marketing freedom will unlock the true entrepreneurial potential for Western Canadian agriculture. The excitement and positive atmosphere experienced by all those in attendance at Canada Grains Council symposium in Ottawa last week is a true indication that the industry is energized and looking forward to an open market August 1, 2012” says Doug Robertson, vice president of WBGA.

The WBGA is disappointed that the “group of eight” continue to work against marketing freedom promoting their own ideological positions and wasting money taken from producer’s pooled accounts. They continue to try to mislead producers telling them that CWB cannot function in an open market. This shows their disrespect for producers who they claim to represent and certainly is counter to what producers have told them in the CWB’s own surveys. In the latest CWB survey released last June, 40% of producers surveyed supported at least a dual market and 22% were in favour of an open market showing 62% support for the marketing choice position the government has taken. The WBGA is confident that a business model can be developed that would allow a new generation CWB to compete in an open market. It would appear that the “group of eight” are so blinded by their own ideological beliefs that they are incapable of developing a working model for the CWB moving forward. It is time for these directors to quit ignoring what producers are telling them. The majority of producers believe the CWB can compete in an open market.

“Marketing Freedom will create an atmosphere that will continue to attract investment in our industry. The investments made by Rahr Malting and Alliance Grain Traders are an indication of the potential for further investments that are going to occur in Western Canada”, states Otto. The WBGA looks forward to the day that farmers are free to deal directly with customers, negotiating prices and delivery opportunities. “This will allow farmers the ability to manage their cash flow and make better business decisions for their farms moving forward. The whole industry will grow and prosper in this new open market environment. It is time that the group of eight admitted to themselves that producers and the industry are ready for an open market”, maintains 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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