



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

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For immediate Release -- News Release

Western Barley Growers Association Condemn Canadian Wheat Board Defiance and Arrogance

October 18, 2006 – Airdrie, AB: The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) is outraged that a document accompanying a news release, distributed October 17, 2006 on behalf of four farm lobby groups regarding the Canadian Wheat Board marketing debate, was written by the CWB.

WBGA president Jeff Nielsen is referring to "A Farm Organizations' Presentation for Minister Strahl - A Producer Plebiscite". The document was supposedly authored by a coalition including APAS, Wild Rose, KAP and NFU, but it was discovered the document was actually written by the CWB.

Jeff Nielsen, president of the Western Barley Growers Association, condemns the CWB for violating a government order to stay out of the dual marketing debate. Last week, Agriculture Minister Chuck Strahl invoked powers in the Canadian Wheat Board Act to require the CWB to stop spending money/resources directly or indirectly to support its monopoly mandate. In spite of this order, CWB employees covertly prepared documents on behalf of this coalition.

"There is no question that Adrian Measner CWB CEO and Ken Ritter CWB Board Chairman, must resign over this gross violation of a strict government order," says Jeff Nielsen. "They publicly stated in a web-cast October 16, 2006 that they would respect and uphold the law as stated in the order in council and the laws of the CWB Act. It is clear they have no intention of respecting the law or Minister Strahl who the CWB must respond to."

"If I was to try to sell my malt or feed barley outside of the jurisdiction of the Board, they would come down on me hard. Farmers who have tried to sell their OWN grains have been charged and sent to jail from the restrictions of the CWB and the government of the day. It is only fitting now that lawbreakers Measner and Ritter should be charged as well," states Nielsen.

"I pay their salaries, as does every other farmer in Western Canada, no matter which side of the marketing debate they are on. The Canadian Wheat Board Act states that they are to sell all grains offered to it, and return all proceeds less administration to the producers, nothing more. As the CEO and Chairman of the board their fiduciary duties are not to encourage employees or themselves to do anything outside of the CWB Act and the laws of Canada.

"Not only has the CWB broken the law, and resignations must be tendered as a result, but these four farm groups have lost all integrity and credibility in this debate as far as I'm concerned," concludes Nielsen.

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