



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

A strong voice for a vibrant, market responsive barley industry in western Canada

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For Immediate Release

WBGA PLEASSED THE TRANSPORTATION MODERNIZATION ACT HAS FINALLY CLEARED ALL PARLIAMENTARY HURDLES

Airdrie, Alberta – May 24, 2018 - The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) is very pleased that Bill C-49, The Transportation Modernization Act, has finally cleared all parliamentary hurdles and received Royal Assent. "This Bill, which many farmers and farm groups have been pursuing for years, follows in the footsteps of other moves forward in creating a long desired market-driven, commercial grain industry in Canada," said Doug Robertson, President of the WBGA. "Farmers won the freedom to control the sale of their own grain, which expanded their planting choices and rotations. They have seen a reduction in regulations and an increase in market possibilities for their crops with new Trade Agreements. The bottleneck to the expanded market demand has been our inability to get our product to market in a timely manner."

Bill C-49 amends the Transportation Act to allow for Reciprocal Penalties to be levied when Railroads, especially the two Capital Railroads, underperform. It also introduces measures to increase competition between the two monopolies. "In the past, all the participants in the grain shipping process except the Railroads were governed by a system of penalties when they did not live up to their contractual agreements," continues Robertson. "If farmer didn't deliver to the elevator when they agreed to, or elevators didn't load grain cars fast enough, or the ports didn't load ships when they agreed to, there were penalties. Only the Railways had no performance penalties. This Bill will encourage them to perform as contracted."

The WBGA hopes that all shippers will benefit from this legislation, so that no commodity is unfairly favored with access, and that it encourages the expansion and modernization of the shipping system for the benefit of the Canadian economy. "The WBGA thanks Agriculture Minister MacCauley and Transport Minister Garneau for spearheading this legislation through to completion," says Robertson. "They understood how important this accountability in our main transportation system is for Canada. We have heard too many times on trade missions from our customers that they like the quality of products Canada has, but have often had to buy from our competitors because of our inability to get those products delivered to them in a reasonable timeframe. It has hurt our reputation to the point that they expect us to be perennially late. We hope this legislation will help us earn back lost market share and restore our reputation as well as clearing the shipping backlog that has plagued the grain industry for a long time."

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

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