



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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For immediate release

JUSTICE PERLMUTTER'S RULING BRINGS CLARITY TO THE MARKET

AIRDRIE, Alta. – February 28, 2012: The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) is pleased with the ruling by Justice Perlmutter denying an injunction that would have stayed or suspended the implementation of Bill C-18. It was sought through a court action by the group of eight dismissed CWB Directors. "The industry has been under a cloud of uncertainty with these legal actions and this ruling will go a long way to removing that uncertainty", says Doug Robertson, president of the WBGA. "Minister Ritz has always maintained since Bill C-18 received Royal Assent that farmers will have marketing freedom on August 1, 2012 and this ruling firmly supports the Ministers position".

"The WBGA has always agreed with Minister Ritz that Section 47.1 only relates to removing wheat or barley from the Monopoly of the CWB but the Minister repealed the Act which is an entirely different thing, and not related to Section 47.1. This ruling supports his interpretation of the Act" says Brian Otto, past president of the WBGA.

It is time for the group of eight to realize that producers have moved past the debate over single desk marketing and are embracing the changes that will create an open market next August. Producers are forward pricing new crop and arranging delivery dates and prices which fit their farm's cash flow needs. The malt industry is moving forward with malt contracts that meet their needs and fill the expectations of malt producers. Producers now have reliable market signals with transparent prices which make cropping decisions more reliable on their farms.

The excitement we see at Farm Shows and conventions, thanks to Bill C-18, which signals to the world that Western Canada is again open for business will continue and new opportunities will be created which will allow our industry to grow. . The decision by Justice Perlmutter ensures that this positive environment will continue into the future. Minister Ritz is correct, marketing freedom will occur August 1, 2012.

For further comment, please contact:

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