



## WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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

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March 7, 2007

Honourable Chuck Strahl, PC, MP  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and  
Minister Responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Minister Stahl:

As we close in on the end of the barley plebiscite and await its results I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and our government for the work done in working towards an environment where choice for barley producers can be realized. As you stated very clearly at the joint convention of the WBGA/WCWGA in mid February, it is a key objective of you, and our government is to provide choice.

Yet as we approach spring we, as producers, must know where the government intends to go with this file. We need barley free from the monopoly powers by August 1/07. It must be stressed that we fully expect the CWB to remain a choice when it comes to marketing barley - with out the monopoly. Fast transition is needed not only for producers but our industry partners as well. At our convention, Rahr Malting stated it wants to work with producers, and needs to know if it can as soon as possible. With this, they are going out on a limb, and offering contracts to producers that offer very attractive prices for malt barley this harvest. I believe other Maltsters are ready to follow suit.

Our grain handling industry and the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange have also stated that they are ready to work with barley free of the monopoly. As you know many of our grain handling companies have strong international relations with foreign buyers and have developed markets with them. There will be push back, we have seen this all along during the plebiscite, and the debate of the survival of the CWB will not end if barley is removed. You and your government must continue to show its strength and leadership and move forward. If a clear majority of producers want choice we (WBGA) will be calling upon the CWB board of directors to make the necessary changes themselves.

Yet I encourage you and our government to move forward with the necessary changes as well. Barley producers are ready for change, we won't go backwards, we need change to survive and obtain the many opportunities we see out there. Be it building on our livestock-feeding sector or new value added sectors such as bio-fuels or food fractionation. Our producers are ready, and are ready to move/market their barley, where ever and whenever. Even if it means breaking the law once again - just to survive!

Sincere regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Nielsen', is written over a light-colored, textured background.

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cc: Mr. David Anderson, MP  
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