



## WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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

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April 6, 2006

Prime Minister Harper  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2  
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Dear Mr. Harper

I am a grain farmer in Alberta; my livelihood depends on a comprehensive end to the Doha round of negotiations. This can be realized this year, this April in Geneva if your government gives our highly respected team of negotiators a new mandate to complete their task.

We all know the figures; over 90% of Canada's agriculture depends on or receives market signals from international trade. Western Canada's agricultural base is in dire need of revitalization. We can see that happen, can see the value it will add to our economy, can see the value added it will bring to our wheat, barley, canola, pulses and livestock sectors. We as producers see this as reality if we achieve at WTO total reduction of subsidies and unfair tariff restrictions.

We seek your leadership on this matter; we are extremely supportive of your goal of allowing grain producers the "Choice" to market their grains as they seem fit. As we are all businessmen and women that have taken agriculture as our livelihood and know the challenges that face us. And know that we need to manage our businesses as just that a business that returns value to our families, pocket book and to our local economy.

I have complete faith in Steve Verheul and his staff in Ottawa, John Gero and Don Stephenson and the staff in Geneva to achieve the aggressive goals we have for this WTO round. I have been personally fortunate to be in Geneva twice last year to see our team work. We saw the "forced reluctance" imposed on them by the former Liberal government to move forward and achieve the results we so desperately need. I saw other countries look to Canada to take a stronger leadership role. One that we are capable of once your government gives our team the mandate they need.

WBGA will be in Geneva again this April, to support and encourage negotiations to come to fruition.

Thank you,

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