



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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

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For Immediate Release

Rejection Of Barley Marketing Freedom Hurts All Farmers

July 31, 2007 ~ Airdrie, AB: Today's Federal Court of Appeal denying marketing choice for barley farmers will result in a continuation of a stagnate barley market" states Jeff Nielsen, President Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA). "By not moving forward, barley will not see the growth we all need to increase returns back to our farm gate. Barley farmers need the same right to market their barley as they do their canola, flax, pulses and oats. Forcing producers to continue to market their malt and export barley through the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) erodes numerous new opportunities for the crop" says Nielsen.

"It is now going to be a challenge for the CWB to fulfill its commitments to our malting industry, without allowing choice, producers will be looking for any, and every opportunity to market their barley through the higher value non-board system. We have and will continue to support our vibrant livestock-feeding sector in western Canada, with the quality barley they have come to expect. Future growth in food fractionation may not come to fruition, whereas the WBGA's barley for ethanol project has taken on a new life and a new urgency today" stresses Nielsen. "Fuel ethanol is not under the CWB, while the use of barley for food or fractionation for food is".

"This is not a win for the CWB, its supporters, the Friends of the Canadian Wheat Board, or the Saskatchewan and Manitoba governments" comments Doug McBain, Past President of the WBGA. "The ability to access the rising international barley market has been lost. Canadian prices will suffer and with that losses in the 100's of millions of potential farm gate returns. "How now can the CWB account for this? Who should compensate the 10's of thousands of western Canadian barley producers for the loss?" asks McBain.

The WBGA calls upon the minister to order the CWB to immediately issue no [cost] buy back export licenses to not only farmers but also our grain trade to minimize the losses and allow producers some freedom. Along with that the CWB must honor its commitment to adding value to western Canadian producers, and not play politics with farmer's money and futures.

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