



## 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 PLEASED WITH AMENDMENTS TO CANADA TRANSPORTATION ACT AND CANADA GRAIN ACT

**Airdrie, Alberta, August 1, 2014** - The Western Barley Growers (WBGA) was pleased to see the announcement by Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and Transport Minister Lisa Raitt today of a number of regulations under Bill C-30, the *Fair Rail for Grain Farmers Act* that will now be in force as of August 1, 2014. The Bill amends both the Canada Transportation Act (CTA) and the Canada Grain Act. “The regulation changes come on the anniversary of the Grain Marketing Freedom Act, and they are a welcome part of the evolution of Canada’s grain marketing system,” said Doug Robertson, WBGA President.

Regulated changes include increasing the rail inter-switching area to 160 kilometers from 30 kilometers on the Prairies, which will increase competition between railways and help all commodities to move better than they do now; and better Service Level Agreements (SLA’s) between shippers and the Railways, which will now be subject to Canadian Transportation Agency arbitration and compensation for underperformance, leading to better commercial contracts between shippers and the railways. There are also more grain movement metrics required by the regulations to better monitor overall performance of grain movement by the railways and regulation to introduce more accountable grain contracts between farmers and grain companies.

“Our grain marketing and transportation system needs to evolve into a commercial contract system as soon as possible, to allow us to catch up to our competitors who have commercial systems in place already,” continued Robertson. “These regulations will help us farther down that road, and we thank both Ministers for their work on farmers’ behalf.”

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

For further comment, please contact:

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