



WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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

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For Immediate Release -- News Release

WBGA surprised at the Canadian Wheat Board undermining Minister responsible for the CWB

August 2, 2006 – Airdrie, AB: “The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) is both surprised and frustrated at the announcement yesterday of the Canadian Wheat Board’s (CWB) *Harvesting Opportunity*” remarks Jeff Nielsen, President of the WBGA. Although a thorough paper on a possible transition plan it still ignores the producer’s right to choice. It also refuses to work with our federal government whose instruction to the CWB has been to move to a “choice” marketing format.

Clearly the board of directors of the CWB wants to be antagonistic, pushing the limits of Honourable Chuck Strahl, the Minister responsible for the CWB. This does nothing to improve the returns for western Canadian producers; it only serves to show our world customers how mismanaged the CWB is. We need a system that provides true choice to producers on where and how they can market **their** own grains. This system works for oilseeds, pulses and oats. Canadian owned and operated grain companies already handle 60-70 % of all grains, oilseeds, pulses produced in western Canada in an open market system.

“As for CWB's call for a federal infusion of \$1.5 billion dollars, WBGA has passed resolutions calling on any funds be paid out to producers, thereby allowing them the choice to invest those funds where they deem best - be it the new CWB, new generation co-ops, bio-fuel plants or pasta plants.” concludes Nielsen.

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