



December 15, 2005

John Williams, Constituency Office

St. Albert, AB
(613) 995-8880

Dear Mr. Williams,

The Alberta Barley Commission represents over 15,000 Alberta Barley Producers producing 40 % of Canada's 14 million Metric Tonnes of barley. Our crops are critical to the success of the Alberta cattle, hog and malt/beer industries.

We are facing record low prices and high costs due to US and EU crop subsidies and face at best equity erosion, at worst loss of the family farm.

Recently a member of your Party was quoted in the December 1st edition of the Western Producer. Mr. Peter MacKay was quoted on behalf of the Conservative party as stating that he "was not committed to distributing the \$755 million in funding which was announced for the Canadian grains and oilseeds sector by Mr. Andy Mitchell on November 26th."

We would be sorely disappointed if this funding was not honored by a Conservative Government, as we believe that it represents an important first step in improving the situation for our sector. The issue of farm income stabilization for grains and oilseeds is a key issue for our members and we will be bringing forward your position and that of your party clearly to our membership. I would be happy to meet with you at your convenience to discuss and clarify your and your party's positions on the above comment and the attached issues further. I can be reached at 403 291 9111.

Sincerely,

Mike Leslie
General Manager