



February 11, 2008.

The Alberta Barley Commission represents the interests of more than 17,000 barley farmers in Alberta. Each of those producers relies on effective transportation policy – especially as it relates to moving grain. Indeed, barley producers' livelihoods depend on timely and accountable rail-service.

Therefore, it is with great urgency that we ask you to pass Bill C-8 as quickly as possible. With the possibility of a federal election in the coming weeks, we respectfully request moving directly from second to third and final reading when the debate resumes on Tuesday February 12th. With a great deal of support from all parties in the House of Commons, our Commission members are hopeful that Bill C-8 can be fast-tracked through the Senate prior to an election. It would be a great disservice to Canadians to allow this Bill to be lost on the order paper yet again.

First introduced by the Hon. David Collenette in the 2nd session of the 37th Parliament, the Bill is based on amendments to the Canada Transportation Act that the Liberals have been trying to pass since February 23, 2003. Nearly 5 years after its introduction, Clause-by-Clause consideration of Bill C-8 by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities on Dec 4th, 2007 took just 15 minutes.

In summary;

- there is universal support among the grain industry for C-8 as written
- there was all party support in the House of Commons
- we respectfully request moving directly from second to third and final reading when the debate resumes on Tuesday February 12.

With overwhelming support from industry and all of the government, it is time that this Bill is finally passed. If you have any further questions, please contact me at our Calgary office: (403) 291-9111.

Sincerely,



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