



**Alberta  
Barley**

The Honourable Gerry Ritz, MP  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
1341 Baseline Road  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

December 6, 2013

Re: Modernization of Plant Breeders' Rights and Adoption of UPOV 91

Dear Minister Ritz:

Alberta Barley, on behalf of more than 11,000 barley producers in Alberta, would like to recognize your recent commitment to ratify the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV 91) by August 1, 2014.

Alberta Barley supports the modernization of Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) legislation in Canada, as a means to encourage innovation through increased investment in plant breeding research.

We value the federal government's commitment to make the ratification of UPOV 91 a priority, and welcome the opportunity to work with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to strengthen Canada's competitive advantage in the global market place.

We look forward to being a part of the continued discussions around this issue, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Sawyer  
Chairman