

October 24, 2013

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

Re: Anticipated CN Rail Strike

Dear Minister Ritz:

With respect to the anticipated CN Rail strike, Alberta Barley and the Alberta Wheat Commission, representing over 17,000 combined barley and wheat farmers in the province of Alberta, are urging the federal government to avert the negative impacts to the Canadian grain industry by ensuring there is no disruption in rail transportation services, at any time.


This potential work stoppage would come at a time when CN's transportation services are most vital to our farmers and their partners along the agriculture value chain. With record crop yields and related storage issues in many parts of Alberta, our farmers rely on the train system in order to maintain our reputation as a consistent and reliable supplier of quality Alberta barley and wheat.

We know that rail services are essential to the movement of Canadian goods and to the health of our national economy. Alberta's farm families have worked hard all year to produce quality crops in response to the growing demand, both domestically and around the world, for Canadian barley and wheat.

It is our hope that the federal government will take swift and decisive action in order to protect the interests of Canadian farmers, Canadian workers, the agriculture industry and the national economy.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter; we look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,



Doug Cornell
General Manager
Alberta Wheat Commission



Lisa Skierka
General Manager
Alberta Barley