

May 9, 2017

The Honourable Marc Garneau
Minister of Transport
Office of the Minister
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Garneau,

The Producer Coalition made up of the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat), the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), and the Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission (Sask Barley), appreciate the commitment of the Federal Government to introduce legislation that will create a more efficient and reliable grain handling system for Western Canadian producers. Our coalition has been vocal on grain handling and transportation issues, emphasizing that any changes to the transportation system must benefit producers.

Recent reports indicating that federal transportation legislation will not be passed before the House rises in June, are concerning to our Coalition and the producers we represent.¹² In the event of this, the government needs to ensure that Bill C-30, the Fair Rail for Grain Farmers Act, will be extended past its August 1, 2017 expiration date. Failing to extend Bill C-30 without new legislation being passed will severely impede the efficiency and reliability of the grain handling system and harm Western Canadian producers. Provisions in Bill C-30 such as increased inter-switching distances and minimum grain volume movements are some of the only tools producers have to increase competition in the industry and hold the railways accountable. As discussed in all of our previous communications, the Producer Coalition sees the maintenance of the Maximum Revenue Entitlement (MRE) as paramount, and that any significant adjustments to the MRE are done only after a full railway costing review is conducted, so that producers can understand the relationship between the MRE and railway costs.

Our Coalition hopes that there is still an opportunity for new legislation to be introduced and passed before the House adjourns for the summer. However, as time continues to pass, we are looking for a commitment from the Government to ensure that Bill C-30 will be extended if passing new legislation is not a feasible option. Extending Bill C-30 is necessary to ensure producers will be able to efficiently market this year's crop and avoid another transportation crisis.

We look forward to working with the Federal Government once new legislation is introduced, and invite you to contact us if you have any questions about this submission.

Sincerely,



Bill Gehl

Chair, Sask Wheat



Todd Lewis

President, APAS



Jason Skotheim

Chair, Sask Barley

¹ Alberta Wheat Commission. Provisions under Bill C-30, the Fair Rail for Grain Farmers Act. May 5, 2017

² Johnson, K. Clock ticks down on Liberals' chance of passing policies. Western Producer May 4, 2017