



**CANADIAN
CO-OPERATIVE
ASSOCIATION**

*providing leadership
to promote, develop,
and unite co-operatives
and credit unions for
the benefit of people
in Canada and around
the world*

telephone
613 238 6711

toll free
866 266 7677

fax
613 567 0658

e-mail
info@CoopsCanada.coop

website
www.CoopsCanada.coop

Co-operative House
Suite 400
275 Bank Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 2L6
Canada



October 5, 2006

The Honourable Chuck Strahl, PC, MP
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and
Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board
Sir John Carling Building
930 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

Dear Minister:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) regarding the future of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB).

The Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) is a national association for co-operatives, representing more than seven million co-operative and credit union members from over 3,000 organizations. Our members come from many sectors of the economy, including finance, insurance, agri-food and supply, wholesale and retail, housing, health, and the service sector. CCA provides leadership to promote, develop, and unite co-operatives and credit unions for the benefit of people in Canada and around the world.

At our most recent annual meeting in June, CCA members adopted a resolution regarding the Canadian Wheat Board.

The CWB, group marketing agencies and co-operatives are all time-tested tools that can help farmers and producers obtain a greater value for their products. The CWB, for example, holds more than 20 per cent of the international market for wheat and barley. As the largest single seller of these commodities, it is able to command a price for wheat and barley that is greater than what Western farmers would be able to obtain should they have to individually market their grain.

We believe that your government should strengthen the CWB, group marketing agencies and co-operatives. Our members also believe that the CWB must remain a single desk marketer as this will ensure that prairie grain farmers retain power in the marketplace rather than turning market power over to a few large transnational grain companies.


Given your government's recent decision to strike a Task Force on Implementing Marketing Choice for Wheat and Barley, we are aware that our association and your government disagree on the future direction of the CWB. However, we urge you to respect the democratic will of grain farmers.

As you know, the CWB is a farmer-controlled organization. Its 15-member Board of Directors controls the CWB: 10 of these directors are democratically elected by Western Canadian farmers and five are appointed by the Federal Government. If the majority of Western Canadian farmers want to see a change in the mandate of the CWB, they have the option of electing directors that favour these changes. Time and again, Western grain farmers have chosen to vote for directors that support the current structure of the CWB rather than

elect individuals that want to change the CWB. Please let those farmers who benefit from the CWB decide its future by ensuring that any decision to change the CWB require the consent of the CWB Board of Directors who have been duly and democratically elected by Western Canadian farmers to represent their interests.

We look forward to receiving a response from you prior to the report back from the Task Force.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Sitaram', is written over a horizontal line.

Dave Sitaram
President

c.c.: Parliamentary Secretary David Anderson, PC, MP
Task Force on Implementing Marketing Choice for Wheat and Barley via the website
(tf-gdt@agr.gc.ca)