



For Immediate Release

March 9, 2007

Wheat Growers Support Level-of-Service Complaint by Great Northern Grain

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association supports the level-of-service complaint filed yesterday against CN Rail by Great Northern Grain Terminals Ltd. Great Northern's action is backed by 10 other grain shippers.

"It's important that all grain companies have access to rail service that meets their needs and the needs of their customers," says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. "If successful, this action will help preserve competition in the grain handling sector and allow all companies to better match grain supply to market demand."

Great Northern Grain has launched its level-of-service complaint in response to the decision by CN Rail earlier this year to restrict advance booking of cars to blocks of 100 cars for 42 consecutive weeks.

"We support the use of 100 car trains where it makes good business sense," says Jolly-Nagel. "However many grain shippers do not have 100 car spots and even those that do should have the flexibility to right-size their shipments to best match their inventories to the needs of their customers."

The Wheat Growers note that grain companies on CP lines are able to pre-book 50 car shipments and have the flexibility to swap these commitments with other grain companies in those weeks where a company is not able to utilize its full commitment. The Wheat Growers maintain all shippers should have the ability to book and swap advance orders for 25, 50 or 100 car shipments. The ability to swap advance orders helps to ensure the right grain is in the right place at the right time.

"Restricting advance orders to 100 cars means too much of the wrong grain could be placed at port position," argues Jolly-Nagel. "This increases congestion and limits the industry's ability to load vessels in a timely and efficient manner."

The Wheat Growers maintain that securing adequate access to rail service is key to creating a competitive and efficient grain industry.

"Grain shippers, large or small, need the ability to make sales commitments with confidence they will have access to car supply," says Jolly-Nagel. "Ensuring all companies have the ability to forward book transportation capacity ultimately maximizes competitive choices for farmers."

- 30 -

For further comment, please contact:

Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel
President
WCWGA
(306) 354-2517

Con Johnson,
Chair, Transportation Committee
WCWGA
(306) 293-2902

Innovative, farmer-driven solutions.