



September 28, 2006

Letters to the Editor  
Winnipeg Free Press  
1355 Mountain Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R2X 3B6

Dear Sir or Madam,

In recent articles, the Winnipeg Free Press appears to be campaigning against farmers who, like myself, want the freedom to sell our wheat and barley to whomever we please.

Farmers in Ontario now have that freedom, but farmers in western Canada are compelled to turn over our food-quality wheat and barley to the Canadian Wheat Board. Any prairie farmer who attempts to directly sell, process or export his own wheat and barley is considered a criminal and is sent to jail.

Freeing up the wheat and barley economy will release the entrepreneurial energy of prairie farmers and give each of us an opportunity to seek out the best possible market, whether that's a local flour mill, grain company, or a buyer half-way around the world. It will also give me the option to contract my grain through a revitalized CWB when it makes good business sense for my farm operation.

Relaxing the CWB's stranglehold on wheat and barley marketing also promises to bring greater economic development to many communities, including the City of Winnipeg. In recent years, we've seen tremendous investments in the processing of open market crops, such as canola, oats, peas and lentils throughout the prairies.

This past summer, two companies each announced plans to build \$100 million canola plants in Saskatchewan. Imagine the opportunities that might arise for farmers and other entrepreneurs if we free up the wheat and barley economy?

During the federal election campaign the Conservatives made a promise to give marketing freedom to western grain farmers and I fully expect them to honour that commitment. Compulsory state marketing is a relic of the past and the sooner we move on, the sooner we'll start to see higher farm profits and a reinvigorated farm economy.

While I respect the right of the Winnipeg Free Press and its reporters to express their views, I would hope that you would also recognize and respect the aspirations of those of us who are striving for greater prosperity throughout western Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Janzen", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Joe Janzen, Manitoba Vice-President  
St. Francois Xavier, MB

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***Innovative, farmer-driven solutions.***