

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Farmers deserve to be heard on Marketing Freedom Bill says WRAP

Sherwood Park (October 21, 2011) – Despite the views expressed by a majority of western Canadian grain farmers in the recent Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) plebiscite, the federal Conservative government is moving hastily to dismantle single desk marketing for wheat and barley. The farmer’s voice and democratic decision-making process are being further disregarded by government with the complete elimination of the farmer elected board in the Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act, Bill C-18, announced earlier this week.

“This completely flies in the face of the federal Progressive Conservative Party’s stated belief that Canadians deserve democratic, effective, and accountable institutions,” said Humphrey Banack, President of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers (WRAP). “It appears this belief only applies to Senate reform. Farmers in western Canada apparently don’t deserve the same consideration.”

“Farmers’ voices need to be heard,” continued Banack. “Bill C-18 should be given the full debate it is due and not have that debate cut short by the Conservative government. It should go to committee, where the democratic rights of interested parties to voice concerns should be respected. Taking the time to get this right is far more important than meeting government’s arbitrary self-imposed deadline to transition to an open grain market.”

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Wild Rose Agricultural Producers is Alberta's largest producer funded general farm organization. Whenever decisions are being made that affect the province's agricultural industry, we're there, providing an effective voice for Alberta's farmers. For more information on WRAP, please visit our website at: www.wrap.ab.ca.