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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Vellacott commends colleague for introducing amendment to Wheat Board Act

For Immediate Release

June 23, 2006

OTTAWA – Maurice Vellacott, Conservative MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, congratulates his colleague Gerry Ritz for introducing, this week in the House, a brief bill to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act (and related acts), to allow Western Canadian producers of wheat and barley to sell their grain to Canadian producer-owned or majority owned facilities for processing, without resorting to the current mandatory 'buy-back' provisions of the Canadian Wheat Board Act.

At present the CWB Act is written so that the Board or Corporation (sect. 2(1)) has the power to buy and sell grain, (sect. 6 (1) a, b) and issue licences and permits for the sale of all wheat and malt barley by the producer.

Under Part IV, sections 45 and 46, the Corporation has the exclusive right to handle all wheat sales and requires producers to 'buy-back' their own grain if they wish to sell it themselves, even in cases where the wheat has never left the farmer's land.

Member of Parliament Gerry Ritz wants to make it possible for producers to freely enter into contracts with producer-owned processors of flour, pasta, malt, or organic products in order to encourage secondary industries in Canada. His amendment is also intended to facilitate the development of distilleries and bio-fuel refineries.

Vellacott believes this legislative change could be a big boon to farmers. He is hopeful that enough Members of Parliament will support this farmer-friendly initiative throughout the legislative process.

Some people claim that marketing choice will destroy the Wheat Board, but in this case even the Canadian Wheat Board directors have said they can work with this concept.

The wording of Bill C-300 is attached for reference and can also be seen on the House of Commons website at http://www.parl.gc.ca/39/1/parlbus/chambus/house/bills/private/C-300/C-300_1/C-300-3E.html.

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For further comment, call (613) 992-1966 or 297-2249

BILL C-300

An Act to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act (direct sale of grain)

1. The Canadian Wheat Board Act is amended by adding the following after section 45:

Permitted Activities

45.1 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or the regulations, a producer may

(a) sell grain produced by the producer directly to an association or firm engaged in the processing of grain if a majority interest in the association or firm is held by a producer or producers based in Canada; and

(b) transport grain for the purposes of any such sale.

(2) No fee shall be imposed under this Act in respect of the sale or transportation of grain in accordance with subsection (1).