

House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food  
Prepared statement by Adrian C. Measner, President and CEO, Canadian Wheat Board  
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Thank you, Ken.

Some of the events to which Ken has referred concern me at a very personal level.

As President and Chief Executive Officer at the CWB, I have always believed that it was my duty to uphold *The CWB Act* by enacting policies and programs that used the CWB's single desk powers to the greatest economic advantage of western Canadian grain producers. I find it quite ironic that in the letter that was sent to me last week by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and comments made by his staff to the press, I have been asked to pledge support for the government's policy of eliminating the single desk, barring which I will be removed from my job. It would seem to me that opposition to the single desk should be far better grounds for my dismissal than unwavering support for the laws of Canada.

Be that as it may, this is not about me. This is all about farmers and their right to work together to ensure their economic well-being. My forthcoming dismissal, as Ken said, is just the latest in a series of developments that have severely undermined farmers' democratic right to set policy and direction for their grain marketing organization. The government's attempts at imposing its ideology on the farmers of Western Canada with no regard for the views of their elected representatives are wrong.

The government's actions are also going to cost farmers money. You cannot make wholesale changes to the board of directors of a corporation with \$4 to \$5 billion worth of sales, gut its management team and restructure the grain-handling system without causing major upheavals and concern throughout the grain trade and most notably among buyers. I want to echo Ken's comments about process and how it is most unfortunate that the government has chosen this precise moment – when some prosperity is finally returning to the grain sector – to create this degree of chaos and uncertainty both domestically and in the international marketplace.

Again, this is not about me. It is about farmers. They are hard-working, common sense, genuine business people who are fully capable of managing their farms and their industry. I report to the farmer controlled board of directors. I work for farmers. I have tried throughout my tenure as President and CEO to respect their ability to make the right decisions and chart a course for their industry and, to the best of my ability, to execute the direction they have set.

I want to add my voice to Ken's in calling upon government to do the same.

Thank you.