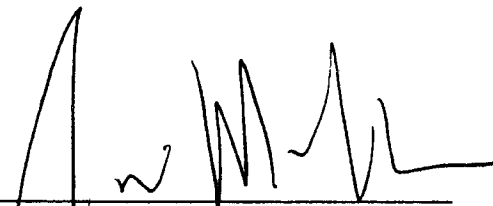


**THIS IS EXHIBIT "45"  
REFERRED TO IN THE  
AFFIDAVIT OF WARD P. WEISENSEL  
SWORN BEFORE ME  
THIS 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2007**



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A Notary Public in and for the  
Province of Manitoba

Minister  
of Agriculture and  
Agri-Food  
and Minister for the  
Canadian Wheat Board



Ministre  
de l'Agriculture et de  
l'Agroalimentaire  
et ministre de la  
Commission canadienne du blé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

AVR. 23 2007

Quote: 100610

Mr. Ken Ritter  
Chair, Board of Directors  
The Canadian Wheat Board  
423 Main Street  
PO Box 816, Station Main  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2P5

Dear Mr. Ritter:

Thank you for your letter conveying the views of the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) board of directors on my proposal to implement marketing choice for barley on August 1, 2007. When we met on April 15, I agreed to provide you with further feedback on your suggestion to delay the implementation of the regulatory amendments for one crop year, until August 1, 2008.

In the 2007 barley plebiscite, producers expressed a clear, unequivocal preference for choice and, since I announced my intention to amend the *Canadian Wheat Board Regulations*, there has been widespread acceptance that the plebiscite results accurately reflect the wishes of barley producers. As you stated in your March 28 press briefing, the results were no surprise to the CWB, which has been seeing similar results in its own producer polling for years. The reality is that producers want a choice of how to market barley. I believe that it is incumbent on both their government and their marketing agency to work as best we can to deliver that result. The message I am hearing from producers and industry leaders is that the best way to do so is to get on with implementation of the changes as quickly as possible. Further delay in delivering what the producers have said that they want and expect would simply add to the uncertainty that may occur as the industry adjusts to a significant change in the marketing environment.

Currently, barley prices are strong and have been rising throughout the 2006-07 pooling period due to international circumstances. As we discussed in our meeting of April 15, this makes it difficult for the CWB to attract barley deliveries into the pool, irrespective of any proposal for change in the marketing regime. However, the prospect of impending regulatory change gives farmers additional options to consider, and may well have some additional impact on deliveries.

Your proposed one-year delay in the implementation of marketing choice would effectively foreclose these options for producers, increasing the likelihood that they would deliver barley to the 2006-07 and 2007-08 barley pools. While I understand that this may work in the corporate

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interest of the CWB and malting barley buyers, there would need to be an extremely strong argument to convince producers that it would be in their interest to accept an additional year of returns below the high market prices they currently see.

The arguments you have advanced include the difficulties experienced by the CWB and other businesses in dealing with the prospect of marketing choice in the current environment of strong barley prices, and the uncertainty caused by the risk that there will be a legal challenge of the regulatory amendments. In my opinion, neither argument is sufficient to justify a delay in delivering the change that producers have requested.

There are mechanisms available to the CWB, and to other market participants affected by the regulatory amendments, to manage change in the market place (for example, through appropriate provisions in contracts). How and when to use these mechanisms are business decisions. I have given you frequent, early, and clear indications that I intended to work toward marketing choice, and you have been aware of producers' views on this issue for some time through your own polling. This being the case, I am surprised and disappointed to learn that you have not taken steps to protect your interests, and the interests of farmers, in a transition to a marketing choice environment.

Regrettably, the recent decision of the Board to suspend the Pool Return Outlooks and the Producer Payment Options for the coming crop year deprives producers of important business tools that they need, and sends a further signal of uncertainty to the market. A longer transition period is not the appropriate solution, as it would effectively make producers pay for the lack of forward planning by others in the market and prolong the period of adjustment.

Finally, I am confident that my proposal to amend the *Regulations* is in accordance with the *Canadian Wheat Board Act*. While the risk that someone will mount a legal challenge does complicate the market situation, I do not believe that the risk of such a challenge justifies denying producers' wishes for marketing choice.

From the Government's side, we are proceeding with the regulatory change and, if there are any challenges, we will be in a position to defend the changes on an expedited basis.

Producers need and want clarity. I believe it is incumbent on the CWB to actively contribute to resolving some of this uncertainty by making a clear statement of your intention not to proceed with a legal challenge; undertaking that you will not use producers' funds to further challenge the marketing changes that producers clearly want; and stating publicly your intention to work in the best interests of farmers by facilitating the transition to marketing choice. This could help to calm the markets and would avoid encouraging others who may be considering legal challenges (which, I believe, is the practical impact of the CWB's current ambivalent public posture on the issue). In my view, it would be far more appropriate to use the CWB's resources to ensure the smoothest possible transition to the new competitive environment for the benefit of producers who choose to market through the CWB, rather than in legal wrangling designed to temporarily deny producers marketing choice.

Mr. Ken Ritter

Page 3

I do appreciate that the combination of market events and the prospect of policy change have made this a very challenging time for the CWB. However, I believe we can and should work together to move as quickly as possible to deliver the changes that producers clearly want. I hope that the CWB will be a key constructive participant in that process.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chuck Strahl". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Chuck Strahl