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Dear Ministers,

Congratulations upon your appointment as the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers are a farm advocacy organization dedicated to developing ag policy solutions that strengthen the profitability and sustainability of farming and the agricultural industry. We represent thousands of prairie grain farmers intent upon accessing free market trade to ensure the strength of our commodity both domestically and internationally.

This past fall has been particularly difficult for farmers. Rain, floods, frosts, drought and several heavy snowstorms have led to some of the most challenging harvest conditions in years, with millions of acres left in the field.

Thankfully, technology has assisted many farmers. Although wet grain spoils easily in storage, making it worthless, the wide-spread use of grain-dryers has ensured that most farmers will be able save their crop and sell it on the open-market. Dryers have reduced food waste and spoilage.

The use of this required technology is not free. In addition to the capital cost, there is a high energy cost as well. Our farmers use natural gas, propane and electricity to dry their grain. We accept that this cost comes out of our bottom line. It's the risk of farming, however this risk is not covered by government crop insurance programs.

What is incomprehensible, is the addition of a carbon tax and subsequent GST on top of this. This is a penalty that farmers simply cannot endure. Some of our members have just received their monthly energy bills with the carbon tax portion amounting up to 43% of the total bill.

Frankly, this is untenable and makes a significant impact in our members bottom line.

Following the release of the Barton report, your government targeted agricultural exports to grow from \$55B in 2015 to at least \$75B by 2025.

While these are laudable targets, they are only attainable on several conditions:

1. Grain farmers must have markets that they can sell to. The current state of foreign markets has eliminated canola to China, pulses to India, durum wheat to Italy, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and Peru. While new markets are being sought out, the disruptions with these countries sends fear through the market.
2. Farmers must be able to afford to farm. With the above listed market restrictions, cash flow is already tight. When an escalating federal carbon tax is added to the cost of our grain production and then to the cost of transportation, there is a point when farmers are put in a loss position. Coupled with our foreign competitors that do not have the burden of a carbon tax, Canadian grain farmers are at a distinct disadvantage in a global market where we compete for commodity sales.

We therefore ask that the federal government eliminate the carbon tax on farm related inputs and energy. We have asked our supporters to sign a petition thus showing the number of farmers that this involves and the horrendous costs that they are currently enduring.

We would be pleased to meet with you at your earliest convenience in order to answer any questions that you may have regarding this need.

Yours truly,



Gunter Jochum
President