



May 22, 2024

The Hon. Seamus O'Regan, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Labour and Seniors
Place du Portage Phase II
165 de l'Hôtel-de-Ville Street
Gatineau, Québec J8X 3X2

Via email: MinistrePT-LPMinister@labour-travail.gc.ca

Dear Minister O'Regan,

As seeding is underway all across the prairies, we have been following the very real possibility of a national strike at both railways. The impact of a strike at a time when our fertilizer and other inputs are in transit by rail and grain terminals need to move grain to port would be devastating.

As a follow-up to our letter of April 21, 2024, we would ask that your Ministry draft back to work legislation, pending the outcome of the current negotiations. By announcing that you have back to work legislation ready to be introduced into the House of Commons, there would be an added incentive to reach an agreement between the railways and the union.

Minister, I cannot stress enough that rail strikes work against the agriculture industry by stalling the movement of our replacement parts and equipment, inputs and the shipping of grain to port. There is no viable alternative for shipping the volume of these goods.

Farmers, producers, and retailers await your response to the pending strike and ask for your support through every means available, including back to work legislation. Canada's economy and international agriculture reputation depends on your rapid response.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Jochum".

Gunter Jochum
President