



Hon. Marc Garneau  
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Minister Garneau,

The recent issues impacting the Canadian rail system have strong and negative implications. The two issues specifically are:

1. The ever-increasing blockades that are stopping the movement of our grain and other goods across the country

As mentioned above, grain farmers have faced a most difficult 2019 harvest. Now to see our rail lines blockaded, with no end in sight, grain farmers are concerned that their export markets may face further impediments.

We already face closed or slowed markets in China, Italy, India, Peru, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia. Past rail closures have resulted in the loss of markets. In an increasingly globalized marketplace, we cannot take this risk.

The rule of law is a fundamental pillar of our Canadian democracy. When did the right to protest turn into the right to illegally impede the lives and livelihoods of law-abiding Canadians?

2. Changes to the maximum speed of trains moving oil or dangerous goods

By limiting the speed of trains in popular areas, the net effect is to slow the entire rail system down. Over the past several months, grain farmers have experienced a late, wet harvest, a CN Rail strike and most recently winter slowdowns due to cold weather. This all at a time when our grain needs to move efficiently to port. A slowdown will only cause further back-ups across the rail system.

Safety factors should never be overlooked and must remain a priority. However, taking overreaching measures may have unintended consequences for rail logistics and the national economy. It is our understanding that less than 10% of the trains that move from the prairies to the West Coast ports move dangerous goods.

With the Transportation Modernization Act (C-49) now in force, the data that railways have to share, such as train speeds by commodities, can be more accurately monitored and compared to specific safety rates.

Both of these factors are causing serious an economic crisis in Canada. We would ask that the review of the rail speed be expedited in order to take steps to move our grain in a more efficient manner.

Furthermore, we ask that the federal government take all steps necessary to end the blockades and ensure that our products are able to move to market both domestically and internationally.

We look forward to your prompt action on these items. If we may of further assistance on this matter, feel free to contact us.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Jochum".

Gunter Jochum  
President

