

**GRAIN GROWERS  
OF CANADA**



**LES PRODUCTEURS  
DE GRAINS DU CANADA**

August 24, 2009

The Honourable Gerry Ritz  
Minister of Agriculture and Agrifood  
House of Commons  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

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**Members:**

Alberta Barley  
Commission

Alberta Grain  
Commission

Alberta Oat Rye &  
Triticale Association

Alberta Pulse Growers

Alberta Winter Wheat  
Producers Commission

Atlantic Grains Council

British Columbia Grain  
Producers Association

Canadian Canola  
Growers Association

Manitoba Corn Growers  
Association

Oat and Barley Council  
of Ontario

Prairie Oat Growers  
Association

Western Barley  
Growers Association

Western Canadian  
Wheat Growers  
Association

Dear Minister Ritz,

On behalf of the 80,000 farmers represented by the Grain Growers of Canada, I am writing to you in support of Canada's current regulatory process for new products of genetic technology, which is based on the principle of sound science.

Canada's current regulatory approach, to approve new innovation in plants and foods is widely regarded as the best in the world by groups such as the World Health Organization and the OECD.

Our regulators must determine the current health effects of a product as well as the potential environmental impact. This approach has served both consumers and producers well and provides a very high level of confidence of food safety in Canada.

Recently, there have been calls to reform our regulatory structure based on non-science factors such as socio-economic circumstances and market acceptance. This debate appears to have been reignited by the upcoming registration of GM alfalfa.

Any change in process would have negative implications for future crops that would benefit both producers and consumers, for example wheat.

Therefore the Grain Growers of Canada strongly urge you to reject such proposals.

Our farmers are reliant on export markets for their livelihood and so Canada must continue to be a strong voice to oppose back-door protectionism in the form of non-science based regulations.

We would be pleased to discuss this further with you or your Department at any time.

Sincerely,

Doug Robertson  
President  
Grain Growers of Canada