



March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food  
Att: All Members  
Parliament Hill  
Ottawa K1A 0A6

### Consideration of Good Agricultural Policy

The Grain Growers of Canada, representing 80,000 Canadian farmers through our member associations, have become increasingly concerned about the functionality of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food.

In some of our recent appearances last fall we have noticed a couple issues:

1. Increasing use of blackberries during witness testimony.
2. Increasing lack of civility towards Members of other political parties.

This is not limited to any one Member or any one political party.

As farmers, as farm organizations and as witnesses we work hard to try and bring forward progressive ideas on how to enhance agriculture in Canada.

At Committee, it is disheartening for us when substantial work has gone into preparing presentations to see people on their blackberries. It is equally disappointing to watch the meetings deteriorate into partisan sniping and points of order.

Beyond the preparation, farmers also take time away from their farms, which allowing for travel is often a minimum of two days time, to simply be able to attend. This often means having someone in to cover off your work, or puts additional burdens on spouses.

We do appreciate that there will always be partisan differences on many issues, much like we have even within the farming community.

However, we would like to strongly encourage all members on the Standing Committee to refrain from blackberries, set aside partisan disputes, listen to the presentations, question witnesses and challenge our thoughts and ideas.

As farmers we want, and frankly expect you, to focus on the issues facing those of us whose economic future is tied to farming.

Sincerely,

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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

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Canadian Canola  
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Manitoba Corn Growers  
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Prairie Oat Growers  
Association

Western Barley  
Growers Association

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Association