

GRAIN GROWERS
OF CANADA



LES PRODUCTEURS
DE GRAINS DU CANADA

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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

Prairie Oat Growers
Association

Western Barley
Growers Association

Western Canadian
Wheat Growers
Association

April 8th, 2010

All Conservative Members of Parliament
Parliament Hill
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Re: Bill C-474

The Grain Growers of Canada, representing over 80,000 successful farmers through its member organizations, would like to thank Hon. Pierre Lemieux, Larry Miller, Brian Storseth and David Anderson for their recent comments opposing Bill C-474 in the House of Commons.

We believe that defeating Bill C-474 is an important step your government can take in this Parliament to help Canadian farmers. The bill proposes socio-economic, rather than science-based regulations on agricultural bio-technology. This is a step in the wrong direction given Canada has rigorous and stringent testing in place for human, animal and environmental concerns prior to the approval of any new traits.

A Bill like this hurts our current negotiations with the European Union, whom we are trying to convince to adopt a science-based model. It will hurt our economy as it sends a chill through the companies who invest in research and innovation, and most of all, it will hurt our farmers, who depend on new technologies to reduce pesticide use, increase yields and farm more sustainably.

Some Members of Parliament have said they want the Bill to pass second reading so the issues can be discussed at agriculture committee. The committee does not need this Bill approved to discuss these issues. The Committee adopted a motion to study genetically modified organisms on October 27, 2009. It had the first hearing on the subject on December 3, 2009. Many farm groups have all said they would appear before the committee to discuss GM issues. **The Committee can have a debate on GM issues, including on the issues addressed by Mr. Atamanenko's bill, without having the House of Commons approve in principle the substance of this Bill.**

We urge you to take whatever steps are necessary to defeat Bill C-474.

Sincerely,

Richard Phillips,
Executive Director of the Grain Growers of Canada