

The Honourable Judy A. Sgro,
Chair, Standing Committee on International Trade
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Submitted Via: ciit@parl.gc.ca

June 3, 2021

Re: Committee Study of bill C-216, An Act to amend the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Act (supply management)

Dear Ms. Sgro,

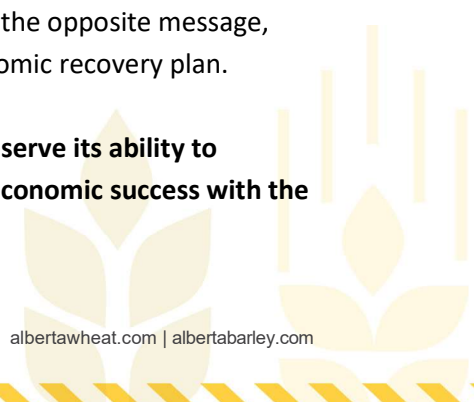
The Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions are provincial commodity associations representing over 17,000 export-oriented wheat and barley farmers across the province of Alberta. We are joined by our sector colleagues via the Grain Growers of Canada (GGC) and the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) in expressing deep concern regarding the devastating impacts that bill C-216 will have on our sector and the Canadian economy, if passed.

Over 90 per cent of Canadian farmers are dependent on exports. Wheat and barley exports not only support Canadian farmers and rural communities, they contribute to the national economy. Alberta's wheat and barley exports alone were valued at over \$2.55 billion in 2020. We expect this value to continue to grow as Canada continues to develop its portfolio of free trade agreements. If bill C-216 passes, our members' contributions to both the economies of Alberta and Canada would be in jeopardy.

Bill C-216 would essentially tie the hands of Canadian negotiators, putting Canada at a significant disadvantage when entering into negotiations with other countries. Legislating the exclusion of products or sectors from trade negotiations not only damages Canada's relationships with key trading partners, it also sets a dangerous precedent – one which threatens Canada's position in the international marketplace.

The Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, has said: "trade remains crucial to the prosperity of Canadians." But this bill sends the opposite message, especially at a time when Canada should be focused on a post-pandemic economic recovery plan.

As such, we ask that the Committee oppose bill C-216 to allow Canada to preserve its ability to negotiate comprehensive trade agreements that help secure our long-term economic success with the broad national interest in mind.



The Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions would encourage the Committee to request that GGC appear before the Committee as part of their study of this important piece of legislation. In the interim, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact GGC's Executive Director, Erin Gowriluk (egowriluk@ggc-pgc.ca/343.549.4767).

Regards,



Tara Sawyer
Board Chair
Alberta Barley Commission



Todd Hames
Board Chair
Alberta Wheat Commission

CC: Tracy Gray, Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on International Trade
Simon-Pierre Savard-Trembley, Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on International Trade

