

Alberta supports federal rail legislation

March 26, 2014

Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Verlyn Olson issued the following statement after the federal government tabled legislation today to further enhance rail service for grain and other commodities.

"An efficient and effective rail transportation system is crucial to Alberta's export-driven economy and our ongoing efforts to expand market access for all of our products.

"We are pleased that the federal government has brought forward the Fair Rail for Grain Farmers Act, which addresses some of our concerns and will help strengthen rail transportation system performance in the immediate- and long-term.

"The legislation incorporates several improvements recommended by Alberta, including an extension of interswitching distances to allow shippers greater access to service from more than one rail company, provisions to clearly define supply chain service requirements, increased reporting of commodity movements, and enhanced federal authority to more quickly address inadequate service during extraordinary circumstances.

"Alberta will continue to work in partnership with the federal government, western Canadian provinces, and all stakeholders in the rail transportation system to develop long-term solutions that support the efficient and consistent movement of goods to market.

"We are looking forward to participating in the accelerated review of the *Canada Transportation Act* and will continue to advocate for measures that will enhance service and accountability throughout the supply chain. This includes direct commercial penalties for rail companies that fail to meet service obligations."

Related information

[Harper government introduces legislation to address rail capacity challenges](#)

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