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**national farmers union**  
*In Union Is Strength*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **WHY THE U.S. MUST DESTROY THE CWB**

**SWIFT CURRENT, Sask.**—“The United States is fixated on destroying the Canadian Wheat Board for two reasons: the CWB serves as a farmer-friendly counter-model to the corporate-dominated U.S. system, and the CWB stands as a barrier to the extraction of the profits from the Canadian wheat and barley sector by American grain companies,” said NFU President Stewart Wells.

“U.S.-based transnational grain companies—led by Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland—are growing rapidly and taking control of the world grain trade. Farmers are increasingly concerned by the power of these giants. The CWB must be destroyed because, as long as it exists, farmers in the U.S. and elsewhere will have an example of a functioning alternative to these transnational giants,” said Wells.

The CWB is also a competitor to these companies and a barrier to their taking the profits from the Canadian system. “The CWB returns hundreds-of-millions of dollars in price premiums to farmers each year. If U.S. transnationals could displace the CWB then these companies, and not farmers, could take these profits. There is a huge profit incentive for these companies to attempt to destroy the CWB,” said Wells.

The United States yesterday announced that it will launch a dispute settlement case with the World Trade Organization (WTO). This is the U.S.’s 11<sup>th</sup> attack on the CWB since 1990. The 10<sup>th</sup> attack—a U.S. anti-dumping/countervail duty challenge—was launched just two months ago.

There is irony in the U.S. charges that the CWB ships too much grain to the U.S. and that the CWB sells at low prices in that market. All evidence shows that the CWB receives premium prices in the U.S. “If the U.S. succeeds in destroying the CWB, it will then face tens-of-thousands of individual Canadian farmers, all trying to sell individually into the U.S. If it kills the CWB, *more* grain will flow into the U.S. at *lower* prices. The U.S. should be careful what it wishes for,” said Wells.

He concluded: “The U.S. government and its transnationals don’t really believe that if they destroy the CWB that Canadian grain exports to the U.S. will fall or that prices will rise. They are intelligent enough to know that the opposite would occur. They are not trying to destroy the CWB because it exports too much or charges too little. They are trying to destroy the CWB because it is a farmer-controlled alternative to the corporate takeover of the global food system. This U.S. action is an attack on Canadian farmers and our marketing agency.”

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