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national farmers union

In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NFU RENEWS CALL FOR TRADE HARASSMENT PENALTIES

SWIFT CURRENT, Saskatchewan—"The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) ruling on duties charged against Canadian Wheat exports once again shows the need for Trade Harassment Penalties to be built into any future trading agreements," said Stewart Wells, President of the National Farmers Union of Canada.

"Over the past two years, we have asked the government of Canada to support a three-strike rule on trade harassment. Application of this rule would mean that any country that continually brings similar trade actions—and loses four times— would be assessed large financial penalties on the fourth loss. In the case of the U.S. harassing western farmers who use the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB), this Trade Harassment Penalty would have kicked in about seven challenges ago," continued Wells.

Today's ruling by the USITC said that duties charged against Canadian durum exports should be dropped altogether, and the USITC was split on the issue of duties against Canadian spring wheat exports, so those duties will remain. The USITC will not release other details of the ruling until mid-October.

"The ruling highlights the weakness of the allegations against the Canadian Wheat Board", said Wells. "Keep in mind that the USITC is not actually an international agency. The USITC is an arm of the U.S. government, and the USITC commissioners are appointed by the President of the United States. Even with hand-picked commissioners—which can even come from the Board rooms of multinational agri-business—the government of the United States cannot justify its actions against the Canadian Wheat Board."

"The National Farmers Union calls on the Canadian government to vigorously defend and promote the Canadian Wheat Board, and we also ask once again that our government to institute Trade Harassment Penalties as a part of any future trade negotiations," concluded Wells.

— 30 —

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