

National Office
2717 Wentz Ave.
Saskatoon, Sask.
S7K 4B6
Tel (306) 652-9465
Fax (306) 664-6226
E-Mail: nfu@nfu.ca



national farmers union

In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LEGISLATION AMENDING CWB ACT INCREASES POWER OF PRIME
MINISTER TO DICTATE**

Legislation tabled in the House of Commons by Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz on March 3 will have devastating consequences for farmer control and the Canadian Wheat Board's marketing advantage, says Stewart Wells, President of the National Farmers Union (NFU).

"Bill C-46 is both anti-farmer and anti-democratic because it reserves greater power to the Prime Minister through Orders-in-Council," stated Wells. "While the full implications of this bill are not known and more analysis is needed, it's clear that the intent is to strip farmers of their current right to determine the future of their own marketing agency."

Bill C-46 undermines the right of farmers to control the CWB through their elected Board of Directors—a farmers' right which the Harper government has never acknowledged and has taken great pains to destroy.

"If you're happy with the prospect of the CWB being under the thumb of the Prime Minister, this legislation is for you. If you believe in democracy and the right of farmers to decide how their marketing agency should evolve, this legislation is another attack against farmers, similar but more extensive than the government attacks that were just determined by the courts to be illegal," concluded Wells.

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Contact: Stewart Wells, NFU President (306) 773-6852 or (306) 741-7694
Terry Pugh, NFU Executive-Secretary (306) 652-9465
Darrin Qualman, NFU Research Director (306) 652-9465