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April 1, 2014

## An Open Letter to Pulse Levy Payers

With the significance of the issues Canadian farmers are facing related to transportation and the measures being put in place by government, SPG felt that it is important to reach out to pulse levy payers and keep you informed about ongoing work in the area of transportation being undertaken by SPG and our national organization, Pulse Canada, on behalf of Saskatchewan pulse farmers.

In partnership with pulse grower organizations across the country and with processors and exporters of pulses and special crops, SPG recognized the need for improved transportation system performance in 2006 and took action by making significant investments in transportation work at Pulse Canada. Today, the pulse industry is viewed as a national leader in this area and has been successful in getting shippers of other products such as forestry, automotive, and mining working together to deal with transportation issues our industry cannot tackle alone. We are confident that the only way we can have impact at the national level is to work together with the pulse industry across the country as well as with grain and other rail shippers in Canada.

One of the advancements made in transportation as a result of SPG's investments include establishing the right to service level agreements in legislation. Pulse Canada was the only shipper group in Canada to package industry recommendations and promote them in the form of a service level agreement to the Rail Freight Service Review Panel. This resulted in the introduction of legislation giving shippers a right to service level agreements and a process to establish one if commercial negotiations fail. Another area of progress is the coordination of Canadian shipper efforts on transportation legislation. Pulse Canada assisted in the coordination of one common piece of draft legislation to Transport Canada from forestry, mining, fertilizer, automotive, chemicals, steel, recycling, and other sectors. Pulse Canada has also developed the first industry-based transportation system performance measurement tool that is being rolled out across the entire grain industry.

In recent weeks, SPG has called on government for action to increase the level of service for grain farmers in Western Canada, and supports the Government of Saskatchewan's efforts to continue to press the need for improvements in the system. SPG has sent letters to the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, and the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Lisa Raitt urging additional action.

While we are supportive of the actions being undertaken by the government, SPG also realizes that there is still a long way to go, and is encouraging the government to put in place additional measures to ensure pulse shippers are not cut off from transportation in certain regions or for certain crops, just to ensure that the government volume targets are being met. We also need to ensure that there is the ability to hold the railways financially accountable for the failure to perform.

We would like to invite you to visit the SPG website ([www.saskpulse.com](http://www.saskpulse.com)) and view the letters that were sent to government officials this month, as well as articles that appear in the March 2014 issue of our PulsePoint magazine focused on the ongoing work in transportation being undertaken by Pulse Canada on behalf of Saskatchewan growers.

As this is an ongoing issue that farmers are facing, we will continue to keep the website updated with information that is valuable to our levy payers as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morgan Nunweiler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Morgan Nunweiler  
Chair, Board of Directors