



NEWS RELEASE

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

203-1700 Ellice Ave. ~ Winnipeg MB ~ R3H 0B1

ph: (204) 697-1140 ~ fax: (204) 697-1109

kap@kap.mb.ca ~ www.kap.mb.ca

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Time to Act on Producer Car Loading Sites

Winnipeg – Keystone Agricultural Producers encourages the Canadian Transportation Agency, Hon. John Baird, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, Hon. Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Hon. Rob Merrifield, Minister of State for Transport to investigate and address the service complaints raised by individual producers against railway companies regarding the delisting and imminent salvaging of producer car loading sites across the prairies.

“These sites are critical infrastructure to guaranteeing farmers’ legislated right to choose between delivering to primary elevators or to load their own producer cars,” said Robert McLean, KAP Vice President and Transportation Committee Chair. “Farmers certainly are showing a growing interest in loading producer cars in recent years.”

KAP is concerned about the short timeline in which the government and farmers have to act on this issue.

“This needs to be dealt with by the federal government in a timely manner,” said McLean. “A moratorium on all sidings removal should be enacted until the federal rail freight service review is completed and the issue can be formally addressed.”

CN has only agreed to delay their plans until the start of the 2010 when they formally finish the delisting process. If the CTA and Transport Canada do not take action on this issue immediately, the opportunity to preserve this valuable rural infrastructure will be lost.

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For more information, please contact:

Robert McLean, KAP Vice President. Cell: (204) 242-4488.

Kristen Lucyshyn, KAP Communications. Office: (204) 697-1140. Cell: (204) 792-2661.

Keystone Agricultural Producers is Manitoba’s largest general farm policy organization, representing over 7,000 farm families and 22 commodity groups throughout the province. Our strength is our democratic structure, and our mission is to represent and promote the interests of the province’s farm families.