



## COMMENTARY

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### “The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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## Level of Service a Critical Issue

June 28, 2007

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Efficient and timely rail service is a critical issue for many of Manitoba's farm families, and this is why Keystone Agricultural Producers has been closely following the level of service complaint launched by Great Northern Grain against Canadian National Railway.

KAP is concerned about the level of service that rail companies currently provide, the inefficiencies that are apparent in today's system, the lack of timeliness and accountability, and – most importantly – the impact that all of these factors have on the farmer's bottom line.

We believe that this process will spotlight the flaws in our rail transportation system that are under discussion as part of the complaint, and in the broader context as well.

It's also a positive step that other groups, like the Canadian Wheat Board, have been successful in their efforts to become intervenors in this level of service complaint. It's becoming clear that the railways actions are having a much broader impact, beyond the farm gate, on grain buyers and sellers. As an industry, it's important that we take this opportunity to speak up about the lack of efficiency and accountability in our rail system.

The simple fact is that serious and systemic problems within the rail industry are costing farmers money every year. We hope that the current level of service complaint will be a first step in addressing this important issue.