



NEWS RELEASE

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

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Bill C-11 to Put Money Back in Farmers’ Pockets

Winnipeg – Bill C-11 has been held up as a way for farmers to save \$50 million a year in rail transportation costs, and this will be put to the test now that the bill has been passed by the House of Commons.

The bill will allow an adjustment in the amount of money that farmers pay to the national rail lines, to reflect the actual amount of money the companies have spent on rail car maintenance. The federal government has estimated this could save farmers \$2 per tonne of grain – a decrease in price that would clearly show that farmers have not been getting the level of repairs and servicing on grain rail cars that are needed.

“If farmers do see a decline in the amount of money they pay because of C-11, it’s a positive move by government but still a bitter pill to swallow,” says Keystone Agricultural Producers President David Rolfe. “Basically, it means we’ll be paying a lower rate now but have been overpaying for many years in the past, even though the majority of repairs haven’t been done.”

KAP continues to be a member of the Farmer Rail Car Coalition (FRCC), a group that was instrumental in proving that rail companies were over-charging farmers on maintenance – and then not doing the necessary repairs. It’s estimated that as much as \$10 million in grain is lost every year because of leaking, poorly-maintained grain cars. This has been a major issue for farmers, grain companies, and shippers.

“Bill C-11 is a powerful step forward to help farmers regain some ground in grain transportation,” says Rolfe. “Now, government needs to ensure that it’s implemented quickly, and that the entire savings get back to the farm gate.”

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