



For Immediate Release March 7, 2014

SARM Supports the Federal Government's Actions on Grain Movement in Western Canada

SARM supports the Federal Government's actions to move grain through the current transportation system which was announced today by the Minister of Transport, Lisa Raitt, and Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Gerry Ritz.

Minister Raitt announced an Order in Council (OIC) to take immediate effect, setting out minimum volumes of grain that Canadian National Railway Company and Canadian Pacific Railway Company are each required to move. The Order, under section 47(1) of the *Canada Transportation Act*, also requires the railways to report to the Minister of Transport on weekly shipments. The Order creates direct legal obligations on railways and will result in penalties for non-compliance of up to \$100,000 per day.

The railways will be required to increase the volumes carried each week, over a period of four weeks, to a combined target of 1,000,000 metric tonnes per week – more than doubling the volume currently being moved. Minister Ritz announced that the Federal Government will introduce legislation when Parliament returns to establish measures to ensure Canada maintains a world-class logistics system that gets agricultural products to market more efficiently.

"The announcement today was something we were anxiously awaiting; Saskatchewan grain producers have been asking for actions to address the situation and these measures are an attempt to address both short and long term concerns," said SARM President David Marit. "We look forward to working with the Federal Government on this new legislation as it is drafted."

For more information contact:

David Marit
President
(306) 476-7754

Dale Harvey
Executive Director
(306) 535-7343

"SARM, the Voice of Rural Saskatchewan"