



601-386 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB, R3C 3R6  
(204) 697-1140  
www.kap.ca

July 7, 2023

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan  
Minister of Labour  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

**RE: International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada Strike**

Dear Minister O'Regan:

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is writing to express our concern regarding the current strike between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada (ILWU) and the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA). KAP is requesting the Government of Canada recall Parliament to enact back-to-work legislation while negotiations are ongoing.

The West Coast ports represent a key export avenue in delivering Manitoba agricultural product abroad. The current strike has resulted in the stoppage of container movement at these ports. Pulse and livestock producers rely heavily on containers to market their product to reach destinations across the globe. Furthermore, these ports are used heavily by potash exporters to deliver this key ingredient in fertilizer for use on crops outside Canada.

KAP has concerns that a prolonged strike could impact a producer's cash flow considering that harvest is fast approaching. Restrictions in cash flow would hamper a farmer's ability to pay bills and purchase inputs for the next crop year. Furthermore, demurrage costs and delays created by this strike would ultimately be passed on to the farmer. All these factors impact the reputation of the Canadian brand with our customers. "Reliability" is a key component of the Canadian brand. The inability to meet the expectation of grain buyers, such as in 2013/14, will resonate with customers for years to come.

The current strike is impacting an already fragile supply chain system. KAP urges your government to recall Parliament to enact back-to-work legislation. This would allow a swift resolution to a pressing issue while allowing the two parties to find a common resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Brenna Mahoney'.

Brenna Mahoney  
General Manager, Keystone Agricultural Producers Inc.

CC: The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food