



Office of the President and  
Chief Executive Officer

Cabinet du président  
et chef de la direction

March 14, 2014

The Honourable Lisa Raitt  
Minister of Transport  
330 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5  
Canada

Dear Minister:

As you are aware, this has been an especially difficult year for the transportation of goods across Canada. From coast-to-coast Canada's transportation network has struggled under extreme weather conditions and labour disruptions, among other issues. This has been an abnormal year for almost all of Canada's transportation modes. Across the membership of the Chamber of Commerce we have heard stories of difficulties from shippers in many sectors of mining, forest products, agriculture and manufactured goods.

While we appreciate that the government is attempting to respond to these adversities, we are concerned about the potential consequences of the proposed intervention in the particularly challenging issue of the movement of grain in Western Canada. For three decades Canada has relied on market forces to determine the level of service, level of investment and prices of our transportation network. These policies have served us well. The proposed action by the government is a strong and disconcerting step in the wrong direction. By dictating how much grain our railways must ship, the federal government could effectively benefit one community of shippers while disadvantaging others.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is deeply concerned about the decision to establish these new requirements. We believe the solution to our transportation challenges cannot be found in a simple order by government, but needs to be addressed cooperatively and inclusively.

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I urge the government to reconsider this decision and to work with all the interested stakeholders to identify longer-term, market-based solutions. For the sake of Canada's international competitiveness, it is important that the needs of all sectors be taken fully into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Perrin Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Perrin Beatty

c.c. Hon. Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade  
Hon. James Flaherty, Minister of Finance  
Hon. James Moore, Minister of Industry Canada.