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## Bill C-474 Ag. Hearings Cancelled – Farmers' Markets at Risk!

**PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, Ottawa, Ontario**— National Farmers Union (NFU) President Terry Boehm expressed his **profound disappointment** that the Agriculture Committee hearings have been cancelled on Bill C-474. C-474 is a private member's bill that will require an analysis of market harm before new Genetically Modified (GM) varieties are released.

"I had prepared the NFU brief, travelled to Ottawa, and arrived at the West Block this morning only to be told that the Ag Committee hearings are cancelled. **This is outrageous,**" said NFU President Terry Boehm. "I had a lot to offer the committee as a witness. I was a Director of the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission and was very closely involved in the de-registration of TRIFFID GM FLAX. The seed stocks were destroyed almost a decade ago to ensure flax crops were not contaminated with Triffid and farmers were not shut-out of European markets," continued Boehm. "Unfortunately, the actions taken at that time were not wholly successful and we were confronted with the collapse of our major market in Europe just as we had feared 10 years ago", said Boehm.

"The Seeds Act was designed to **protect farmers** from falsely advertised varieties and contaminated seed. Bill C-474 would have carried this intent forward with the simple addition of a market harm analysis regarding new GM releases," stated Boehm.

"Our current regulatory system would allow TRIFFID GM flax to be approved today as well as GM wheat or Round-up Ready alfalfa. Farmers cannot afford to lose any more markets because our government is not looking out for the important markets they have today and need for the future," added Boehm.

It is imperative that MPs stand up and vote for C-474 now that hearings have ended. **Canadian farmers and the country cannot take any more market hits because of the sacred cow of biotech,**" NFU President Boehm concluded.

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For more information please contact

Terry Boehm, President of National Farmers Union (306) 255-2880  
(306) 255-7638

Ross Hinthner, NFU Director of Research (306) 652-9465