February 13, 2018

Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications  
The Senate of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A4

Re: Bill C-49 – An Act to amend the Canada Transportation Act and other Acts respecting transportation and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts

I am writing to express the support of the Canadian National Millers Association (CNMA) for quick passage of the Bill. In particular, the CNMA is in full support of the submission of the Western Grain Elevator Association to be presented and considered at the Committee’s hearing tomorrow evening.

As WGEA and other grain industry organizations have and will submit, timely passage and implementation of this Bill is of inestimable importance to the supply chains these organizations represent, from grain producers to processors. Throughout the consultations of the CTA and Transport Canada leading to C-49, CNMA has sought to bring some awareness of the need for suitable and adequate service to grain processors, including the milling companies that are CNMA members operating in the North American market. Our brief comments to the House of Commons Standing Committee were intended to do the same.

In this context, the recommendations contained in the current WGEA submission pertaining to access to long-haul Interswitching are also supported by CNMA. Wheat milling establishments in western Canada are, in fact, a category of elevator licensed by the Canadian Grain Commission (process elevators). The reasons outlined by the WGEA for unrestricted access to long-haul interswitching are applicable. That is to say, cereal grain milling facilities need access to rail service throughout the North American continent to forward ship milled grain products and by-products to regional markets. These include wheat flour, bran and milled oat products that are also commodities listed in Schedule II of the Canada Transportation Act.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Harrison  
President