



## CANADIAN OILSEED PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

### **COPA commends Government for extension of rail provisions**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Winnipeg) – June 17, 2016: The Canadian Oilseed Processors Association (COPA) commends the announcement by the Government of Canada that it is postponing for one year the repeal of certain provisions of the *Canada Transportation Act* that were enacted in 2014 by the *Fair Rail for Grain Farmers Act*.

"We applaud Ministers Garneau and MacAulay for making this initiative a priority and for working with the House and Senate to keep the provisions of the *Fair Rail for Grain Farmers Act* in place while considering permanent changes," said Chris Vervaet, Executive Director of COPA. "The provision to maintain the 160 km interswitching limit is especially important for our members."

Extended interswitching is being used by shippers and is an effective tool to provide additional competition between the two Canadian Class I railways as well as with other North American carriers.

"COPA members are reporting an improvement in the level of service and are noticing more competitive freight rates when using the 160 km interswitch provision," said Vervaet. "It provides a level of competition in an environment where shippers are often captive to a single railway service provider."

COPA will continue to advocate for permanent regulatory solutions that encourage competitive behaviour and also balanced accountability between railway companies and shippers. Additional accountability measures such as reciprocal penalties in service level agreements are essential for any commercial relationship.

COPA appreciates the Government of Canada's commitment to remain engaged with all stakeholders during its ongoing assessment of the *Canada Transportation Act* Review report. COPA looks forward to working with the government to establish solutions that support a competitive and efficient shipping environment.

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*The Canadian Oilseed Processors Association (COPA) is a federally incorporated non-profit industry association that works closely with the Canola Council of Canada to represent the major oilseed processors in Canada.*

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