

## Oilseed processors welcome Bill C-49 amendments

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Oilseed processors welcome amendments to Bill C-49, the Transportation Modernization Act, proposed by the Senate and accepted by Minister Garneau, which will give oilseed processors the ability to secure better service from railways through measures such as long-haul interswitching. Once it receives Royal Assent, processors will be able to use this and other provisions in the Bill to hold the railways to account when they fail to meet their rail service commitments.

“Oilseed processors endorse the steps taken by Minister Garneau,” said Chris Vervaet, Executive Director of the Canadian Oilseed Processors Association (COPA). “These amendments demonstrate that the Government supports value-added agri-processing in Canada and the jobs it generates.”

COPA would also like to thank Minister MacAulay for his ongoing support of Bill C-49 and the amendments. “The provisions in C-49 are critical for the continued success of our industry and key to reaching the Government’s target of \$75 billion in agri-food exports by 2025,” said Vervaet.

Reliable and predictable rail service is critical for oilseed processors as facilities operate on a 24/7 production schedule. Delays in service can result in plants having to limit production or shut down. In two of the last four years, rail service deteriorated to the point that oilseed processors were forced to scale back production, impacting seed deliveries from farmers and causing customers to lose confidence in the industry’s ability to supply products in a consistent manner.

“Parliament must now move to pass Bill C-49 as quickly as possible,” added Mr. Vervaet. “Value-added processors and the entire supply chain need access to these measures to avoid another season of service disruptions in 2018-19.”

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

*COPA MEMBER COMPANIES: ADM Agri-Industries Company, Bunge Canada, Cargill Limited, Louis Dreyfus Company Yorkton Trading LP, Richardson Oilseed Limited, Viterra Oilseed Processing*