

Scott Brown
Manager, Public Affairs
Canadian National Railway Company
Scott.Brown@cn.ca

July 15, 2022

Dear Scott Brown:

Thank you for your email to provide feedback regarding CN's draft annual grain plan. Manitoba farmers are heavily reliant on class 1 railways, such as CN, to have their product shipped to port. Given the current focus on supply chain issues and global food security it becomes paramount, as Canada's largest railway, that a timely, efficient and reliable movement of grain occurs for the 2022-23 crop year.

We appreciate CN outlining the challenges faced in 2021-22 as well as other factors that may impact the shipping of grain in the coming crop year. We do have concerns with the reported recruitment levels for qualified conductors as well as the possibility of not having sufficient crew capacity at certain periods of the crop year. We trust that CN will be able to address any operating crew shortfalls in the 2022-23 crop year.

As a stakeholder in the agricultural industry our biggest concern with the annual grain plan is lack of meaningful service performance data. This is a concern that has been echoed by other agricultural industry groups across the prairies. Transparency and accountability are key concepts that need to be part of every grain plan. The metrics listed below are recommendations provided by the Ag Transport Coalition to Transport Canada that would improve the value of future grain plans.

1. Forecast of demand by principal commodity group (bulk grain v. processed grain products) by month and origin – destination corridor.
2. Planned weekly rail car capacity offering segregated between railway supplied and private rail cars for the movement of bulk grain and grain products.
3. Transparency for all stakeholders into the railways' calculations of maximum sustainable supply chain capacity upon which they justify the reductions in their capacity offering during winter months.
4. Asset utilization targets for railway supplied hopper cars by month and origin – destination corridor, specifically hopper car cycles for railway supplied hopper cars to grain shippers.
5. Service performance targets for loaded railway movements by month and origin region – destination corridor, specifically railway trip times from origin to destination.

6. Monthly performance reporting against established asset and service targets as identified above.

Thank you for your email and the opportunity to provide feedback regarding CN's draft annual grain plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenna Mahoney". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Brenna Mahoney

General Manager, Keystone Agricultural Producers