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Myron Thompson, M.P.
Wild Rose, Alberta

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For Immediate Release

CONSERVATIVES BEGIN CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S. ON CORN SUBSIDIES

OTTAWA- Myron Thompson, Member of Parliament for Wild Rose, was pleased that the Conservative government has requested consultations with Washington at the World Trade Organization on subsidies provided to American corn growers under the US Farm Bill.

“For many years I have heard the corn growers in Wild Rose say that it wasn’t a level playing field. That the US subsidies allow cheap corn to enter Canada, undermining domestic prices and hurting our Canadian corn growers. I believe that subsidies, about \$9 billion a year, are causing severe economic hardship to our farmers. Reducing these unfair subsidies would certainly level the playing field once and for all,” said Thompson.

“We all know that the United States maintains export credit guarantees that subsidize certain US agricultural products. Canada’s position is that these programs are inconsistent with United States WTO obligations,” stated Thompson.

Canada has the option for asking for a WTO dispute settlement panel to be appointed to adjudicate the issue if it isn’t resolved through these consultations.

“As the Prime Minister has stated on many occasions, our New Government is committed to our farmers and will continue to work with our industries so they can compete in the global market,” said Thompson.

“In addition, our government continues to support an ambitious outcome to the WTO Doha Round and will work closely with the US and other WTO members to achieve this. We will continue to pursue the elimination of export subsidies and significant market access improvements for our agricultural producers and exporters,” concluded Thompson.

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