

CHRISTIE & CO

FROM DREAM TO MAINSTREAM

PRESS RELEASE

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Columbia Grain™

CULTIVATING GROWTH™

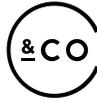
Columbia Grain International Supports Request that Congress Fund an Agriculture Shippers Relief Package to Address Transportation Crisis Facing the Pulse Industry

Portland, OR (MARCH 2020) — The agriculture industry has experienced a huge disruption as a result of the transportation crisis facing pulse crop processors and exporters during the global pandemic. At present, ocean carriers are racing back to Asia from the U.S. with empty agricultural containers in order to fill their ships with more profitable consumer goods. Furthermore, railcars, trucks and containers loaded with pulses are sitting at U.S. ports and processing facilities waiting to be loaded and shipped to overseas customers, collecting millions of dollars in demurrage charges since the beginning of the pandemic. [Columbia Grain International \(CGI\)](#) is in favor of asking Congress to fund an Agriculture Shippers Relief package to support our industry as we face economically damaging demurrage costs at our export ports and increased trucking costs to our consumers. We ask Congress to pass legislation that will allow the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) to take quick action against ocean carriers who refuse to ship agriculture products. The cancellation of container bookings, demurrage and increased trucking costs caused by COVID-19 are threatening our pulse processing and exportation functions, which affects the livelihood of our employees and our extensive farmer network. CGI is committed to protecting our people and partners to fulfil our mission to cultivate high quality and healthy ingredients from our farmers to nourish the world.

We stand with the USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council, American Pulse Association, and US Pea & Lentil Trade Association to implement an Agriculture Shippers Relief package to help rural processors and exporters through the COVID-19 crisis.

About Columbia Grain International

Since 1978, Columbia Grain International™ (CGI) has been Cultivating Growth™ as a global leader in the origination, processing, logistics, and distribution of high-quality bulk grains, pulses, edible beans, oilseeds and organics for U.S. domestic and worldwide export markets. Headquartered in Portland, OR, CGI's reliable supply chain spans the western region of the US, ensuring abundant ingredients for all its partners, thanks to their trusted relationships with their farmers throughout the fertile croplands of Washington, Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota, well known for its high-quality wheat, feed grains, canola, and pulses. CGI is an owner of Montana Specialty Mills, who operates an organic and non-GMO oilseed crushing facility in Great Falls, Montana, a mustard seed facility in Conrad, Montana, and most recently Montana Craft Malt — providing specialty malt barley from Montana farmers to the craft brewing world. Today, they are vertically integrated, operating assets including grain elevators, processing plants, and agronomy centers to support



their farmers, which stretch the northern tier of the United States. With multiple touchpoints across the food supply chain, CGI provides trusted solutions and cultivates high-quality ingredients from their local farmers for a farm to table philosophy that nourishes the world, safely.

For more information, visit [Columbia Grain International](#) online. For media inquiries, contact Christina Madrid at Christie & Co, www.christieand.co, by phone (805) 576-7102 and/or email christina@christieand.co.

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